



Daily Report

East Asia

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Japan

Decision on DPRK Sanctions Expected 26 January OW211207 Tokyo KYODO in English 1125 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—The Japanese Government will decide next Tuesday what punitive action to take against North Korea for its alleged involvement in the explosion of a South Korean jetliner last November, official sources said Thursday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Keizo Obuchi on Thursday summoned Kimio Fujita, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, to discuss what sanctions Japan should impose on North Korea.

The United States on Wednesday called North Korea a terrorist-supporting nation and banned its diplomats from having contacts with their North Korean counterparts.

South Korea announced last week North Korean agents planted explosives on Korean Air Flight 858 and killed all 115 people aboard.

The plane, flying from Baghdad to Seoul, exploded and vanished last November 29 over the Andaman Sea near the Burmese-Thai border.

The Japanese Government is expected to impose sanctions on North Korea, such as limiting personnel exchanges between the two nations.

Obuchi and Fujita reportedly did not make any final decision on the planned sanctions because of the problem of two Japanese seamen under detention in North Korea.

North Korea's Nampo municipal court sentenced Isamu Beniko, captain of the freezer ship "No. 18 Fujisan Maru", and Yoshio Kuriura, the ship's chief engineer, to "15 years of reformation through labor" on espionage charges on December 24.

Obuchi said he believes the upcoming sanction may be "close" to the punitive steps Japan took against North Korea in connection with the North Korean terrorist bombing in Rangoon in 1983 in which members of South Korean President Chun Tuo-hwan's official entourage to Burma were killed.

The steps included a ban on contacts between Japanese and North Korean diplomats in third countries, and no travel to North Korea by Japanese Government employees.

Takeshita Says U.S. Relations Strengthened OW210247 Tokyo KYODO in English 0155 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita said Thursday that Japan-U.S. relations have been strengthened through summit talks between him and U.S. President Ronald Reagan and that their diplomacy was very meaningful.

Addressing the 49th convention of his ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Takeshita, who returned home Wednesday from his nine-day visit to the United States and Canada, said that the summit talks were held in a warm atmosphere. The prime minister said he exchanged views on international affairs very frankly with Reagan.

Takeshita, who succeeded Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone in November, said he and Reagan agreed the two countries would cooperate for stable global economic development.

The prime minister also said he had heart-to-heart talks with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in Toronto, where summit talks by leaders of seven industrialized nations are slated for June this year.

"As a member of the Asian and Pacific region nations, it goes without saying that Japan has a major role in contributing to stability and development in the region and in promoting relations with neighboring countries," Takeshita said.

Japan will promote exchanges with countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, he said.

Takeshita said he will visit China and South Korea this year at the earliest opportunity to exchange views with leaders of these countries.

He also said he will visit Europe this year to meet with leaders of the European Community in preparation for the summit meeting in Toronto.

Referring to domestic problems, Takeshita said the government has drawn up a budget plan for fiscal 1988 aiming at both expansion of domestic demand and sustained economic growth.

Takeshita said one of the major tasks the government faces is the land problem. "A major factor in land price rises is the concentration of population and functions in Tokyo," Takeshita said.

He said, "it is our urgent task to counter this concentration and to make Japan a multipolarized and decentralized nation by implementation of the fourth comprehensive national development plan and the relocation of at least one office of each ministry and government agency outside Tokyo."

Takeshita called for tax reform to make the tax system simple and fair and to stimulate Japan's economy and secure stable tax revenue so as to prepare for an increasingly aging society.

LDP Secretary General Shintaro Abe told the 49th convention that discussions on tax reform must be held at the current Diet session to be resumed next Monday.

'No Problem' Seen in U.S. Beef-Orange Talks
OW210259 Tokyo KYODO in English 0227 GMT
21 Jan 88

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—Japan has told the United States it hopes to resume bilateral talks in the second week of February on a trade agreement concerning imports of U.S. beef and oranges which expires March 31, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said Thursday.

Officials said Hidero Maki, director general of the ministry's Economic Affairs Bureau, who accompanied Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita in a visit to Washington January 12-15, discussed the matter with deputy U.S. trade representative Michael Smith.

In reply, Smith told Maki he would convey the proposal to U.S. trade representative Clayton Yeutter, they said.

The officials said the second week of February was chosen as the negotiating date to cope with possible developments concerning Japan's import controls on 12 agricultural items which are expected to be raised at a meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Geneva on February 2.

Japan and the U.S. are still at odds on the beef and orange trade issue, with the U.S. demanding full decontrol of the imports, while Japan hopes to compromise by offering to increase import quotas.

Informed sources, however, painted a very pessimistic picture of the talks being settled before the arrangement expires in March even if the negotiations start in February as hoped for by Japan.

But Maki told reporters on his return home Wednesday that even if the talks are not settled before the expiry of the agreement, there will be no problem if both sides are willing to consult on the thorny issue in earnest.

Maki also said Japan will fully liberalize the import of eight of 10 items subject to a GATT recommendation late last month to lift import restrictions. But the curbs will remain on starch, unsweetened condensed milk and powdered milk, he said.

Takeshita Orders Settlement of Trade Issue
OW211419 Tokyo KYODO in English 1317 GMT
21 Jan 88

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita ordered Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Takashi Sato Thursday to seek a settlement of a farm trade dispute with the United States on 12 items at a council meeting of the Geneva-based General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) next month.

Sato, later speaking to newsmen, said publicly for the first time that Japan will tell the council that it will lift import curbs on eight farm products, but cannot do so on two others—starch, and powdered and condensed milk.

A multinational GATT panel ruled in early December that Japan's import curbs on the 10 items run counter to GATT rules. The U.S. had complained to the GATT about Japan's import restrictions on 12 items, but the panel said that curbs on two of them—peanuts, and beans and peas—constitute no violation.

Sato, however, declined to say whether Japan will accept a GATT recommendation for decontrol of the 10 items.

He said only that the government is now making efforts on three fronts—negotiations with the U.S., preparations for the GATT meeting and adjustment of domestic interests involved.

On the eight items to be liberalized, he said the government wants to set their liberalization schedules and will also press ahead with work on fiscal and other measures to help domestic producers who will be seriously affected.

Takeshita Travels to Canada for Official Talks

For reportage on Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's visit to Canada, including his talks with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney dealing with, among other matters, the upcoming Toronto economic summit, please refer to the Canada section of the 19 January West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Central Bank Tries To Hold Down Interest
OW210605 Tokyo KYODO in English 0448 GMT
21 Jan 88

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—The Bank of Japan [BOJ] injected liquidity worth 600 billion yen into the interbank market Thursday for the fourth consecutive day in a bid to hold down short-term interest rates on the open market, officials said Thursday.

To do so, the central bank bought three-month discount bills at the market rate of 3.875 percent, a banking department official said.

The central bank has poured a total of 1.4 trillion yen in liquidity into the interbank market since Monday by buying three-month discount bills, the official said.

The domestic money market had a fund surplus of about 200 billion yen on Thursday, the officials said.

At the same time, the central bank was planning to drain the market of 300 billion yen by selling fiscal bonds (FB)—short-term government securities—Thursday to absorb some surplus funds.

Banking sources said Japan's 13 leading commercial banks are expected to raise necessary funds by hiking interest rates on their debt instruments this month, because 10 trillion yen worth of large-lot time deposits and certificates of deposit (CDs) issued by these banks will mature during the month.

The Bank of Japan will continue to maintain its easy credit policy in order to counter these commercial bank moves, which will put upward pressure on domestic interest rates, BOJ officials said.

Bill discount rates have remained unchanged since early January in spite of the large influx of central bank funds into the interbank market this week.

150,000 Dollars in Emergency Aid Given to SRV
OW190729 Tokyo KYODO in English 0246 GMT
19 Jan 88

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—Japan decided Tuesday to offer Vietnam emergency aid of 150,000 dollars in cash and medicines worth 15 million yen to help the country recover from typhoon damage, the Foreign Ministry said.

A typhoon which hit Vietnam last November caused 101 deaths and serious damages, causing food shortages and forcing people to live in unsanitary conditions.

The ministry said an official of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will take the medicines to Vietnam.

CS-3 Satellite To Be Launched 16 February
OW180829 Tokyo KYODO in English 0746 GMT
18 Jan 88

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 18 KYODO—The National Space Development Agency (NASDA) plans to launch a CS-3 series communications satellite on February 16, NASDA officials said Monday.

The officials said the satellite will be sent into geostationary orbit by an H-1 rocket from the Tanegashima Space Center in southern Kagoshima Prefecture.

The satellite, codenamed CS-3a, is the first of a pair of advanced communications satellites designed for use in Japan.

The launch, originally scheduled for February, had previously been cancelled as a result of faulty electronic chips in the guidance system.

The chips, made in the U.S., were later replaced, and the guidance system is now working properly, NASDA officials said.

North Korea

Paper on Danger South Military Exercises Pose
SK211039 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1024 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Pyongyang January 21 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comes out with a signed article entitled "Hidden Daggers Must be Thrown Away First for Reconciliation."

The article says:

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught:

"As we stated more than once, military confrontation is a factor in misunderstanding and distrust, for the fellow countrymen to trust and become reconciled with each other, they must first throw away the daggers hidden in their breast pockets."

If the country is to be reunified through dialogue and negotiation, the North and the South should have an attitude and willingness to become reconciled and united with each other and ease the tension. The minimum requirement for national unity and reconciliation is to take steps for discontinuing large-scale military exercises against the opposite party to dialogue.

For the fellow countrymen to trust and become reconciled with each other and reunify the country through dialogue, both sides should throw away the daggers hidden in their breast pockets so as to make sure that one side will not attack the other side.

The "Team Spirit" joint military rehearsal is a dangerous factor of exasperating antagonism and confrontation within the nation and bringing the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war. It is because the South Korean authorities have staged the "Team Spirit" and other large-scale war exercises one after another jointly with U.S. imperialism for the purposes of North-South confrontation and war that a recent series of the hard-won North-South dialogues were brought to a rupture overnight and have not yet been resumed.

Discontinuing the "Team Spirit" and other large-scale war exercises is required for the fellow countrymen to refrain from fighting among themselves and to live in

peace, even though it is difficult to reunify the country right now. Such important matters can be smoothly settled only when they are discussed at such a wide-range dialogue that may reflect the general will of the nation.

The political parties, public organizations and people of all social standings in the North and the South should work hard to convene a North-South joint conference to settle the pressing questions related to the future of the nation.

It is all the more necessary for South Korean people of all walks of life to join in the dialogue now that the United States and South Korean authorities are not willing to throw away the daggers hidden in their breast pockets but are rather sharpening them.

If the North and the South fail to solve the pending issues including the discontinuation of large-scale war exercises, our nation will hardly become reconciled and united, reunification will be farther off and the nation will have no choice but to make a war.

Envoy in USSR Holds News Conference

*SK211200 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
2100 GMT 20 Jan 88*

[Text] In connection with the KCNA statement announced to expose and denounce the anti-Republic slanderous commotions which the South Korean puppet clique has viciously kicked up by inventing the so-called results of an investigation into a passenger plane incident and linking it to us, our country's embassy in the Soviet Union held a news conference on 19 January.

Present at the news conference were reporters from Soviet newspapers, news agencies, magazines, and functionaries concerned.

In the news conference our country's charge d'affaires ad interim in the Soviet Union Chin Si-kun introduced the contents of the KCNA statement announced on 15 January and then made remarks.

Stating that the South Korean puppets have undertaken such despicable acts as fabricating the so-called results of an investigation into a passenger plane incident, which took place last November, and then laying the blame for the incident on the DPRK, he noted that the so-called results of the investigation fabricated by the South Korean ruling quarters are a fabrication made up completely of lies, deceit, and contradictions.

Making it clear that the DPRK had nothing to do with the South Korean passenger plane incident, he exposed the hackneyed tactic of the South Korean puppet clique to fabricate preposterous dramas and kick up anti-Republic slanderous commotions whenever it faces crises.

He expressed his expectation that the justice-loving and peace-loving Soviet publications and press will pay attention to the criminal goals behind the anti-Republic maneuvers concerning the passenger plane incident by the persons in authority in South Korea and raise their voices exposing and denouncing them.

The reporters' questions were answered at the news conference.

KCNA Cites KNS Report on KAL Incident

*SK210427 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0419 GMT 21 Jan 88*

[Text] Pyongyang January 21 (KCNA)—The Japan mission of "The South Korean National Democratic Front" made public a statement on January 19 denouncing the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u group's anti-communist racket on the missing KAL incident, according to a KNS report from Tokyo.

Noting that the South Korean fascist clique on January 15 announced so-called "results of investigation" into the missing KAL incident and is launching a big anti-North, anti-communist campaign, talking about "terrorism" and slandering the North which had nothing to do with the "incident", the statement said:

But the "results of investigation" have no concrete evidence proving "terrorism" but only widely spread bad rumour about the "shocking confessions" of a woman called Mayumi.

Mayumi was taken to Seoul on the eve of the "presidential elections" and the "results of investigation" were made public just before the deadline of application for the Olympics. This reveals an intention to use this incident for a sinister political purpose.

All facts show that the "results of investigation" are a fabrication woven from a to z with lies, deceptions and contradictions and this faked-up incident is used in deception-ridden anti-North, anti-communist propaganda to have extension of the military dictatorial system and the fixation of division recognized at home and abroad.

The Japan mission of the "South Korean National Democratic Front", together with the fighting South Korean popular masses, will smash the heinous anti-North, anti-communist fabrication and valiantly wage the anti-U.S., anti-dictatorship struggle till independence, democracy and reunification have been achieved, the statement added.

Paper Urges Early North-South Conference
SK180915 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
2112 GMT 14 Jan 88

[NODONG SINMUN 15 January editorial: "The North-South Joint Conference Should Be Held at An Early Date"]

[Text] A joint meeting, fully supporting and agreeing with the proposal for the convocation of a North-South joint conference that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song made in his New Year's address, has been courteously proposed to the persons in authority in South Korea stressing the need to discuss in the conference such issues as halting within this year large-scale year military exercises, including the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise; arranging multinational disarmament talks; hosting the 24th Olympics by the North and South regardless of the deadline set for the application for the Olympics; and ceasing to hurl abuse and slander at each other.

A joint meeting of the DPRK Central People's Committee, the State Administration Council, political parties, and public organizations was held on 13 January in Pyongyang to take practical measures aimed at realizing the new proposal for national salvation made by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year's address.

In this connection, the joint meeting adopted, in its name, a letter addressed to the South Korean authorities, political parties, public organizations, and people of all walks of life. The letter was delivered to the South side on 13 January.

The joint meeting also formed a preparatory committee of the North side for the North-South joint conference to ensure the realization of such a conference at an early date as well as to ensure its success and proposed a preliminary meeting to discuss in advance issues concerning the convocation of the joint conference on 19 February in Panmunjom.

The measures taken by the joint meeting are most just and reasonable measures as they are aimed at turning the relations of confrontation between the North and South into relations of conciliation and at opening a new phase for peace and peaceful reunification by realizing the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's proposal for the convocation of the North-South joint conference at an early date.

Regarding the measures taken by the joint meeting as the most just measures for national salvation to open a way out for the nation in terms of the prevailing situation, we warmly welcome and fully support it.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The realization of the North-South joint conference will break up the state of isolation between the North and

South and open a new phase in hastening peace in the nation and peaceful reunification of the country, which the entire population ardently hopes for.

The proposal for the convocation of the North-South joint conference is a timely measure for national salvation as it is designed to firmly put the situation in our country, which is rushing toward perpetual division and toward the brink of war, on a track toward detente and peaceful reunification and make this a year to create a new phase for national reconciliation and unity.

Not a few people, believing that 1988 will be a most tense and complicated period in view of South Korea's internal situation and in view of North-South relations, are now watching with deep concern.

Although the so-called change of government is expected this year in South Korea, with the presidential election failing to be held according to the will of the people who are opposed to prolonging military rule, the serious confrontation between the fascist military force and the broad democratic forces is expected to continue and the political crisis in South Korea will become acute.

What is more, under the circumstances in which the United States and the persons in authority in South Korea are openly unleashing military threats by additionally massing vast military forces in South Korea and its neighboring waters on the pretense of ensuring security for the Olympics, there is no guarantee at all that the situation in our country in which the military forces of the two sides are in an acute standoff will not rush toward the brink of war and result in a military clash.

The prevailing situation urgently requires that measures for national salvation be taken at an early date. No matter what, we must overcome the difficulties facing us and turn the situation on the Korean peninsula decisively in favor of peace in the country and national reunification this year.

It is as a measure capable of solving the fundamental factors that cause North-South relations to worsen and of opening a new phase of change for national reconciliation and unity as well as for peaceful reunification that the joint meeting put forth a concrete proposal concerning the convocation of the North-South joint conference, proposing that the joint conference discuss and solve such issues as halting large-scale military exercises, including the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, within this year; arranging multinational disarmament talks; cohosting the 24th Olympics by the North and South disregarding the deadline set for the application for the Olympics; and ceasing to hurl abuses and slanders at each other.

To remove the misunderstanding and distrust between the North and South and put the situation which is rushing toward the exacerbation of tension on a track

toward detente and peaceful reunification, it is imperative to solve such issues as ceasing large-scale military exercises, the arms race, and the act of hurling abuses and slanders—the dangerous factors that foster feuds and confrontation between the people and that drive the situation toward the brink of war—and to keep the 24th Olympics expected to be held this year from being held unilaterally and from being used for confrontation and in fabricating the two Koreas and to have them cohosted by the North and South.

Also, the proposal for the convocation of the North-South joint conference amounts to a most reasonable proposal for negotiations capable of smoothly solving the imminent issues concerning the common interest of the nation according to the consensus of the entire population.

The pending issues between the North and South that must be solved immediately, something that concerns the common interests of the entire population not just those of certain sectors or groups, can be successfully solved only on the basis of a broad method of negotiations capable of forming a consensus of the entire population in the North and South, outside the narrow framework of the ruling authorities or certain political parties.

Not only is this a historic summing up and valuable lesson left by the North-South talks of the past period, but it is also a strong desire of the absolute majority of the South Korean people.

In fact, as has been demonstrated by the results of the presidential election held last December, 12 million people, far more than the majority of the voters, made their will to end the prolonged military rule and for a civilian-run government understood.

This indicates that those in power in South Korea are in no position to represent the will of the absolute majority of the people. The ruling force and the democratic forces in South Korea have different views and stands concerning peace in the country and reunification.

These objective factors that cannot be waved off show that the issues arising between the North and South can be solved according to the common opinion of the nation only when such a pannational venue for negotiations as the North-South joint conference is arranged.

Indeed, because of the justness of its purposes, the urgency of the issues that have been raised in it, and the reasonableness of the ways to solve them, the proposal on convening a North-South joint conference is a just proposal for national salvation acceptable to anyone who loves the country and people as well as a patriotic initiative for national reconciliation and unity.

The convocation of the North-South joint conference will be an epochal event of great significance for breaking up the wall of division and opening the path toward reunification of the country.

When the joint conference is held and the immediate issues arising between the North and South are solved successfully in that conference, North-South relations which have long remained solidly frozen with animosity and confrontation will be turned into relations of reconciliation and unity and an epochal phase will be opened for the path toward peace in the nation and peaceful reunification, which has been ardently hoped for by the entire population.

The participation in the North-South joint conference to discuss issues concerning national peace and reunification by the politicians in the North and South is a sacred national right and a due demand of national history that nobody can stop.

If all the politicians and people of all walks of life in the North and South take a stand to genuinely solve national peace and peaceful reunification based on common national ideals and conscience, they have no reason not to sit together in such a pannational venue for negotiations as the North-South joint conference.

We are convinced that the representatives of all political parties and people of all walks of life in South Korea who are concerned about the future of the nation and people and hope for reunification of the country will actively come out to realize the North-South joint conference which will open a bright future for the path toward reunification in response to our patriotic initiative which has been advanced out of a single-minded aspiration for national salvation.

If the persons in authority in South Korea also genuinely want national reconciliation and unity, they should affirmatively respond to our historic proposal, which is filled with patriotic will, at an early date, take measures to have the preliminary talks convened at an early date, and guarantee necessary conditions for the representatives of various political parties and public organizations and people of all walks of life to participate in the conference.

Upholding the new measure of national salvation advanced by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year's address, we will exert every effort possible to make this a historic year for bringing an end to the history of animosity and confrontation and for opening a new chapter of reconciliation and unity by energetically carrying out the work designed to convene the North-South joint conference at an early date.

More on Conference Proposal

SK191045 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1037 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Pyongyang January 19 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today says that the proposal for the convocation of a North-South joint conference carries a most reasonable mode of negotiation for reconciliation, unity and detente.

In a signed article the paper says:

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song said in his new year address for 1988:

"...We propose to convene a North-South joint conference attended by persons in authority of both sides and the representatives of all the political parties and social organizations and people of all social standings."

Clarified in our proposal is a most reasonable mode of negotiation to solve satisfactorily the urgent problems for national reconciliation and unity with the concerted will and efforts of the whole nation and positively open a phase of national reunification.

The question of national reunification is not a matter of who will conquer whom or who will be conquered. It is the question of achieving national unity between the North and the South which make up one nation of the same stock and a national cause to be achieved only with the participation of the whole nation.

There arise between the North and the South problems which require urgent solution for promoting reconciliation and unity and easing tensions. Among them are problems of discontinuing "Team Spirit" joint military exercise and other large-scale war games, of arranging multi-national disarmament talks, of hosting the 24th Olympic games jointly and of ceasing to hurl abuses and slanders.

These problems directly concerning the interests and destiny of the nation can not be settled in a narrow framework of dialogue for which only the ruling authorities and specific political parties sit face to face. Their solution is possible only through a stage of wide-range negotiation attended by representatives who may speak for the will of all classes, circles and political forces.

In view of the aspiration after reunification growing among the South Korean people and of the objective reality, the proposal for the convocation of a North-South joint conference carries a most reasonable mode of negotiation.

As already known, in the "presidential election" in South Korea at the end of last year, 12 million people, far exceeding the majority of voters, clearly expressed their

will rejecting prolonged military rule. This clearly proved that the South Korean rulers cannot represent the will of the majority of people.

As clarified by the great leader, only when a North-South joint conference is convened with the attendance of persons in authority of both sides and the representatives of all the political parties and social organizations and people of all social standings, can the reunification problem be successfully settled in accordance with the general will of the whole nation.

The South Korean people of different social standings and figures of political parties and organizations must actively participate in the struggle to bring our proposal for the convocation of a North-South joint conference into practice at an early date.

The South Korean authorities must discard their attitude opposing dialogue, peace and reunification.

Commentator Urges Positive Response

SK180759 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
1150 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Commentary by station commentator Kim Myongnam: "The South Side Should Show an Affirmative Response to Our Proposal"]

[Text] A joint meeting of the DPRK Central People's Committee, the State Administration Council, the political parties, and public organizations held in Pyongyang on 13 January proposed to the South side that a North-South joint conference be convened, and adopted a letter to the South Korean authorities, political parties, social organizations, and people of all walks of life.

The letter was delivered to the South side on 14 January. The letter stressed the urgency of the early convocation of a North-South joint conference and referred to discussing and solving, at a joint conference, the question of discontinuing large-scale military exercises—including the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise—within this year; the question of holding multinational disarmament talks; the question of realizing the North-South cohosting of the Olympics, regardless of the designated deadline of application; and the question of ceasing mutual abuses and slanders.

In addition, it clarified that other matters, if beneficial to making this a year in which a new turn for national reconciliation and unity is effected, may be discussed.

Noting the place and time of a joint conference, the letter made clear that a preliminary meeting for holding a joint conference should be held in Panmunjom on 19 February.

Proposing the holding of a North-South joint conference at the joint meeting and delivering the letter were the most just and timely nation-saving measure to redirect

our country's situation, which is hurtling toward permanent division and the brink of war, toward detente and peaceful reunification and to make this a year for a new turn toward national reconciliation and unity.

As is known, easing tension on the Korean peninsula, removing the danger of war, and achieving national reconciliation and unity are rising as the most pressing problems now.

This notwithstanding, serious confrontation between the military fascist forces, who are trying to prolong military rule, and the democratic forces against it, continues in South Korea, and the bellicose elements are striving to find a way out of this by war.

In addition, the situation is further hurtling toward the brink of war because the United States and the South Korean persons in authority are threatening us militarily, massing colossal armed forces in South Korea and its neighboring waters under the pretext of the security of the Olympics. This military threat under the situation in which tremendous armed forces stand in confrontation along the Military Demarcation Line can cause an armed clash. In this case, the clash would easily expand into a total war—a thermonuclear war—and our nation would suffer from irrevocable nuclear calamities.

It is no accident that not a few people express apprehensions about the fact that this year will be the most tense and complicated period in view of the internal circumstances of South Korea and North-South relations.

The prevailing situation demands that urgent nation-saving measures to tide over the present difficulties and open the way for national survival through the joint national efforts of the North and South be taken. To this end, a large-scale military exercise and the arms race—causes that incite antagonism and confrontation within the nation and lead the situation to the brink of war—should be discontinued, and abuses and slanders be ceased. Also, efforts should be made to prevent the 24th Olympic games from being used for concocting two Koreas, as a result of their exclusive holding, and to realize their cohosting.

These are problems concerning the interests of the nation. Also, they are not matters which should be discussed by several individuals or certain parties, but grave questions which should be solved in accord with the general will of the fellow countrymen.

The proposal to convene a North-South joint conference is the most fair, aboveboard, and reasonable form of negotiation, which makes it possible to smoothly solve these national problems of importance, and is a nation-saving overture acceptable to anyone who genuinely loves the country and the nation.

If a North-South joint conference is held and problems rising in North-South relations are successfully solved, this year will become a historic year providing a new turn toward national reconciliation and unity and a new phase will open in expediting peace and the peaceful reunification of the country.

If the South Korean side were only to genuinely take the stand of trying to solve the problem of national peaceful reunification by achieving national reconciliation and unity, it would have no reason not to turn out for negotiations with us. The South Korean side should respond to our proposal for a joint conference and thus, affirmatively work for the early convocation of the full-dress conference through a smoothly proceeding preliminary meeting.

Daily on Pending Issues for Unity, Detente
SK161044 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1029 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Pyongyang January 16 (KCNA)—The pending issues between the North and the South at present are to remove the ever-worsening antagonism and confrontation, achieve national reconciliation and unity and ease the increasing tension, emphasizes NODONG SINMUN in a signed article Saturday.

The article says:

Acute confrontation exists now in South Korea between the democratic forces of broad segments desirous of independence, democracy and reunification and the military fascist forces seeking extension of the military rule and a permanent split of the nation. This confrontation is anticipated to go from bad to worse as the days go by. No one can foretell what adventure the South Korean military dictatorial forces would make for a way out when this confrontation results in a serious political crisis in South Korea.

Under this situation, the best way for removal of the factors deteriorating the North-South relations and for national reconciliation and unity, peace and reunification is to convene a North-South joint conference to discuss and settle the problems of discontinuing the "Team Spirit" and other large-scale military exercises, of arranging multi-national disarmament talks, of hosting the 24th Olympic games jointly by the North and the South regardless of the deadline of Olympic application and of ceasing to hurl slanders against each other.

The representatives of South Korean political parties and public organizations and people of all social standings who are concerned about the future of the country and the nation and want to see reunification should work to realize a North-South joint conference in response to our patriotic initiative derived from the desire for national salvation.

South Reportedly Stages Operational Exercise
SK161520 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1505 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Pyongyang January 16 (KCNA)—The South Korean puppets staged Wednesday a "training for one or three day operation" aimed at igniting a new war against the North, by mobilizing a unit of the puppet army called "the first combat unit" to keep itself ready "to go into prompt action", according to a report.

By staging the training in full force day and night the puppet clique betrayed its criminal attempt to make a surprising attack upon the northern half of the country.

The puppet clique is screwing up the tensions to the utmost pitch in a bid to block the anti-U.S., anti-fascist movement growing among the South Korean people and "justify" the extension of the military dictatorship with the approach of the "National Assembly election" and Olympic games.

This frantic military training is a virulent challenge to the unanimous desire of our people to remove the military confrontation between North and South and ease the tensions for national reunification.

Daily Criticizes Exercises
SK200611 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0511 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Pyongyang January 20 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today denounces the South Korean puppets for frantically launching provocative military exercises from the outset of the new year.

As already reported, the puppets on January 13 staged "exercise of preparedness for one-three day operation" crying about someone's "provocation" and on January 15 staged another war game called "demonstrative exercise in severe cold".

In particular, the puppets made public the fabricated "results of investigation" into the passenger plane incident and "alerted" the whole puppet army, inciting a war fever.

In a signed commentary the paper says: This is a very dangerous act wrecking the reconciliation and unity of the nation and leading the situation not to detente and peace but to confrontation and war.

The puppets fabricated the "victory" of the traitor No Tae-u in the "elections" by means of fraud but their position is not secure.

The provocative military exercises of the puppets stem from their consciousness of crisis. It is a desperate act to threaten the anti-"government" struggle of the people by

force at the moment and carry through the scheme to extend the military administration without difficulty and find a way out in the ignition of war in case of dead end.

Tension Said Aggravated
SK201245 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
2150 GMT 19 Jan 88

[NODONG SINMUN 20 January commentary: "Playing With Fire Cannot Be a Way Out"]

[Text] Since the outset of the New Year, the South Korean puppets have been conducting vicious anti-Republic commotions while frenziedly conducting provocative war exercises. As has been reported, the puppets on 13 January staged a so-called readiness exercise for a 1-3 day operation, mobilizing a puppet army unit called a first engagement unit, babbling about someone's provocation. On 15 January, the puppets staged another war exercise called a demonstration exercise in severe cold, mobilizing another puppet army unit, raving about perfect readiness for complete winter time operations.

In particular, the puppets made public the fabricated result of an investigation into the passenger plane incident and alerted the whole puppet army, inciting war fever. This is a very dangerous act that hurts national reconciliation and cohesion and leads the situation not to detente and peace but to confrontation and war.

It is well known that the puppets, babbling about someone's provocation in connection with the power transfer and the Olympics to be held this year, have long engaged in premeditated maneuvers to aggravate tensions. Last year the puppets, turning away from our repeated peace proposals and following the U.S. imperialists' war policy, continually conducted war exercises, including the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, together with their masters, extremely aggravating tensions.

They also repeatedly held military conferences, and, under the pretext of ensuring the successful hosting of the Olympics, agreed on such measures as the swift dispatch of U.S. reinforcements to South Korea in case of emergency, additional storage of newly developed ammunition, permanent deployment of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, and the expanded "Team Spirit" war exercise, and announced that they would implement them effective January this year.

From the outset of the New Year, the puppets, taking advantage of the so-called New Year opening ceremonies and other similar occasions, viciously inspired war fever, raving about strengthening the security posture, maintaining complete combat readiness, establishing and implementing a stage-by-stage operational plan, and maximizing (?spiritual) combat strength.

The puppets' bellicose outbursts, unusual military moves, and continuing war exercises show that they desperately oppose national reconciliation and cohesion, easing tensions, and peaceful reunification and that they intend to further aggravate tensions this year and will not hesitate even to commit military adventurism against us.

The puppets fabricated the election of traitor No Tae-u by means of fraud, but their position is not secure. The absolute majority of the people have launched a struggle to oppose prolonging the military dictatorship with surging indignation against the U.S. imperialists and their stooges who fabricated the election of the military hooligan, despite their consistent opposition and rejection. The broad opinion at home and abroad predict that the puppets' farce of a power transfer will touch off a more fierce anti-U.S. and antidictatorship struggle of the South Korean people.

The puppets' provocative war exercise commotions result from their feeling of crisis and these are their desperate maneuvers to find a way out by threatening the people—who rose up in an antigovernment struggle—with force and carrying out the scheme to extend military rule without difficulty, setting off a war if faced with a dead end.

However, the puppets will gain nothing from war maneuvers. The South Korean people will wage a more stubborn struggle against the coming into power of the military hooligans, who pursue aggravation of tensions and war. And this struggle will endanger not only the puppets' power transfer farce but also the Olympics on which they depend as a lifeline.

The tiger moth will die in the flames. The puppets should not act recklessly but should behave with discretion.

South Ministers Remarks at Assembly Viewed
SK210437 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0430 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Pyongyang January 21 (KCNA)—At a "plenary session of the National Assembly" held on January 19 the South Korean puppet prime minister shifted again onto us the responsibility for the missing KAL incident, which was fabricated by the South Korean puppets, and at the same time, cried about "reinforcement of the retaliatory capacity" and "sanctions" and the puppet defence minister, going further, babbled that South Korean puppet army was "fully ready" for prompt military retaliation against the North" once ordered, according to a radio report from Seoul.

It is a stereotyped method of the South Korean puppet clique to fabricate a shocking incident each time fascist ruling system faced a crisis and use it in bridging over the crisis.

The indiscreet and reckless jargon of the fascist clique clearly shows that it cooked up the incident to divert the people's resistance elsewhere and "justify" its war provocation manoeuvres against the North.

Of course, the puppets can never frighten us with such threat and blackmail.

The fascist clique must be clearly mindful that they will be held entirely responsible for the consequences arising from the criminal moves to intentionally aggravate the military tensions and act with discretion.

They must clearly realize that the Korean people are watching their rash and thoughtless action with sharp vigilance and that their provocation against us will not escape our resolute retaliation.

Paper Urges Condemnation of No in Pak Case
SK151019 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1010 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Pyongyang January 15 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN Friday comments on the recent exposure of another piece of evidence for the background of the criminal tricks to conceal the truth of the case of Pak Chong-chol, a patriotic student of Seoul university, South Korea, who was murdered through torture by the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u military gang in January last year.

A forensic pathologist at the scientific investigation institute who took a post-mortem examination of Pak Chong-chol made public his diary recently. According to the diary, he told the "chief of the police headquarters" and other officers that Pak Chong-chol was killed by torture, when they forced him to announce that Pak "died from shock" and kept him under custody all day long for fear that the truth of the murder by torture should be brought to light.

The signed commentary says:

When the truth of the murder was brought into bolder relief, the traitor No Tae-u ordered to "dispel all doubts through investigation" in an attempt to conceal his crime and lull the criticism and resentment of the people.

No Tae-u, the mastermind of the murder by torture, faked up his "victory" in the fraudulent "presidential elections" under the cloak of "democracy" and is preparing to be seated in "chongwadae." The former "chief of the police headquarters" who directed the operation to conceal the murder of Pak Chong-chol is getting ready without shame to be a candidate of the "Democratic Justice Party" in the puppet parliamentary elections. Facts show that there can be no democracy in South Korea.

The South Korean people will not pardon the murderers of Pak Chong-chol but will pass a stern judgement on them.

Reinvestigation of Death Viewed
SK210220 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
2153 GMT 18 Jan 88

[NODONG SINMUN 19 January commentary: "The Chieftains of Murder Must Be Punished"]

[Text] It has been reported that the prosecutor's office, which ran amok in reinvestigating the cover-up of the torture murder of Pak Chong-chol, a patriotic student of Seoul National University, has virtually concluded its work by arresting the then director of the Police Headquarters. This shows that the puppets' investigation was nothing but another farce of appeasement and deception designed to sooth the antigovernment struggle of youths, students, and people which had grown as the despicable seamy side of the cover-up of the truth of the torture murder of Pak Chong-chol in South Korea was laid bare anew.

From the outset, the group of military hooligans maneuvered, in a sordid way, to cover up the truth of the torture murder of Pak Chong-chol. The head of the investigation team raved that though he was aware last February that there were other culprits, he did not continue to probe into the case because it was not a proper time in view of the social and political atmosphere, and he further clamored as if this was valid. Also, he defended the puppet police and prosecutor's office using various excuses.

The International Bar Association has exposed the fact that torture and cruel treatment are constantly inflicted upon those in custody in South Korea. When they are investigated, they first suffer being beaten with clubs, then water torture and electric torture. Even when this has been confirmed, the prosecutor's organ refuses to indict a torture case and the Supreme Court validates the act of the prosecutor's office.

The outrageous torture murder of Pak Chong-chol is not a trifle to be solved by merely imprisoning some hangmen involved in the murder or the boss of the puppet police headquarters who ordered the cover-up operation.

The fascist clique announced that the investigation was started with the policy of strict punishment aimed at doing away with irregularities and corruption and at arresting whoever had been found to have even a modicum of guilt. This being the case, the two military hooligans, traitors Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u, must be subject to capital punishment as the main culprits of the torture murder of Pak Chong-chol.

The torture murder of Pak Chong-chol was the outcome of the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u military hooligans' murderous torture rule and bestial rule and a result of their fascist frenzy to prolong the military dictatorship.

Not a day has passed in South Korea when the atrocity of torture or murder has not taken place.

The atrocity of torture murder is a basic ruling method of the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u ring and its way of survival. In particular, traitor No Tae-u is the murderous ringleader who established the Namyong-dong anticommunist section of the Police Headquarters, where patriotic student Pak Chong-chol was tortured to death. This notwithstanding, this murderous ringleader is running wild to take the presidential seat in a brazen way, far from being submitted to public trial.

To uproot the atrocities of torture murder in South Korea, traitors Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u, chieftains of murderous torture, must be liquidated and the U.S. imperialists, who goad the two military hooligans into torture murder, must be driven out.

The South Korean people are echoing these denunciations against the fascist hangmen who are trying to hush up the truth of the torture death of Pak Chong-chol, despite its exposure. The South Korean youth and students are pledging to inflict a heavy blow on the group of human butchers, consolidating their new fighting will, and resolve to put an end to the military regime so that the death of Pak Chong-chol will not be in vain.

The fascist clique must look straight at the tenor of the times, stop the despicable act of trying to deceive and mock the people, and step down from power as demanded by the people.

The South Korean people will strive to have the price of blood paid by patriotic students returned a thousand times.

U.S. Increasing Arms Buildup Criticized
SK200509 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0438 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Pyongyang January 20 (KCNA)—Hayes, commander-in-chief of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces in the Pacific, revealed the aggressive design of the U.S. imperialists, crying that "tensions on the Korean peninsula are not likely to be eased in a short period", slandering us again, on January 18, when he was interviewed by a Japanese newspaper reporter in Honolulu, according to a report.

Hayes had huddles with the director of the Defence Agency of Japan on a visit to the United States on January 16 and hammered away at the poppycock that it is not the time to discuss the question of the withdrawal of the U.S. forces stationed in South Korea.

In a word, it is a scheme to "justify" the criminal intention of the U.S. imperialists to keep occupying South Korea permanently and hasten preparations for aggression and war.

Today the tensions on the Korean peninsula remain strained. It is not because of "threat" from the North but entirely because of the criminal moves of the U.S. imperialists who occupied South Korea by force of arms, converted it into an aggression base and a nuclear base biggest in the Far East for supremacy over Asia and other parts of the world and keep beefing up their aggression forces and step up war preparations.

In particular, with the 24th Olympic Games at hand, the U.S. imperialists are spurring on the reinforcement of aggressive armed forces and war provocation manoeuvres, while noisily crying about fictitious "threat from the North."

They must look straight at the trend of the times for peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification and act with discretion and give up dangerous new war provocation manoeuvres.

Daily on Increased War Preparation
SK192304 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1500 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Pyongyang January 19 (KCNA)—The U.S.-led imperialists are increasing armaments on a large scale and stepping up war preparation, says MINJU CHO-SON today in a signed article.

In the article titled "Imperialists' Arms Buildup and Aggressive Designs", the paper notes that the imperialists are hell bent on arms buildup and arms race and rushing headlong to aggression and are going against the movement for peace against war and nuclear weapons, the trend of our times.

The paper continues: The Reagan administration spent 154.8 billion dollars in the military expenditure in 1981, the first year of his office, whereas it decided to appropriate 296 billion dollars nearly twice as much in the present fiscal year.

The British imperialists are yearly increasing military expenditure. They made an outlay of 18,500 million pounds in the 1986-87 fiscal year, which is much more than that of any other NATO member nations in per capita spending.

The Japanese militarists decided to appropriate 29 billion dollars in the military budget for 1988, or 5.2 percent higher than last year, which is far more than total military spendings in Southeast Asian countries altogether.

Ever increasing military spending of the imperialists are for the militarisation of economy and war preparations.

The U.S. imperialists, even after the conclusion of the treaty on partial nuclear disarmament with the Soviet Union, carried out laser test, part of the "Star Wars program", and launching test of inter-continental ballistic missile and cruise missiles in succession and began producing binary chemical weapons.

The U.S.-led imperialists' feverish development and production of new types of weapons with the outlay of large sum of money aim at having the upper hand of strength, a nuclear superiority to wipe out socialist countries and realize their ambition for world domination.

World peace and security are exposed to a great threat and the situation is being aggravated on the Korean peninsula, Asia-Pacific region, Middle East, Central America rest of the world, by the aggression, war and interference of the imperialists and their stooges.

Such circumstances make it incumbent upon all the progressive forces and peaceloving people of the world to unite under the banner of anti-imperialism, anti-war and peace, jointly counter the imperialists' moves of aggression and war and deal a collective counterblow to the imperialists everywhere they stretch out their claws of aggression.

Paper Urges U.S. Give Up 'Star Wars'
SK151023 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1015 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Pyongyang January 15 (KCNA)—U.S. President Reagan cried that the "Star Wars programme" was a "defence system intended for the elimination of nuclear weapons and for a more stable world", babbling that it is, indeed, the "bedrock of the U.S. policy and a first and foremost one".

Criticizing this, NODONG SINMUN today says that his utterances in wake of his signing of the treaty of eliminating medium- and shorter-range missiles indicate the U.S. ruling circle's intention only to get nuclear supremacy and impose a nuclear holocaust upon mankind, not being interested in disarmament.

In an article titled "U.S. imperialists' scheme to bring about nuclear calamities from outer space", the author says that the U.S. imperialists' "Star Wars programme" is a criminal plan for a nuclear war to deploy many nuclear weapons in outer space and inflict a nuclear holocaust upon mankind from there.

The U.S. reactionary ruling quarters' jargon that the "Star Wars programme" is a "defensive one benefiting" mankind is nothing but a sophistry to conceal the criminal purpose of this programme, the paper says, and continues:

The U.S. reactionary ruling quarters pretend to demand "disarmament" and desire for "clear outer space". But it is a whopping lie. In actuality, they seek arms race, not "disarmament", and an outer space covered with nuclear weapons, not a clear one.

The world peace-loving people desire peace, not a nuclear war.

U.S. imperialism must give up the "Star Wars programme" as demanded by the world's peace-loving people.

Nuclear Disarmament Stressed

*SK211050 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1034 GMT 21 Jan 88*

[Text] Pyongyang January 21 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists' policy of nuclear war should be checked and thwarted and nuclear disarmament realised and, furthermore, all nuclear weapons and bases completely dismantled worldwide and world denuclearised in order to remove the source of nuclear war.

So stresses NODONG SINMUN today in a signed article titled "To Remove the Source of Nuclear War and Defend Peace is An Urgent Requirement of the Time".

The article says:

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-long said in the new year address:

"The most important question in the field of international politics at the moment is to eliminate the source of nuclear war and preserve peace".

He enunciated the idea of removing the source of nuclear war, thus clearly indicating the goal of struggle to prevent a nuclear war and basic ways of attaining that goal, the job solemnly demanded by the times and unanimously desired by the people.

Never before has the question of war or peace presented itself before mankind so urgently as today and its existence been threatened so seriously as today.

It is because of the unprecedented nuclear war moves of the imperialists, the U.S. imperialists in particular, that dark clouds of nuclear war are hanging over the heads of mankind more heavily than ever before.

The U.S. imperialists are stepping up nuclear test, development and production of new type nuclear weapons, regarding it as a basic demand for "security" of the United States and "restoration of global leadership" to beef up its nuclear armed forces. They have deployed a large number of nuclear weapons in the areas near the socialist countries and other progressive countries and are intensifying different forms of nuclear war exercises in the land, sea and sky.

The United States decided to allocate for "Star Wars" program some 4 billion dollars in the fiscal year, raving that this program would be pressed on even if nuclear disarmament is achieved.

It is the Korean peninsula where the world's greatest danger of a nuclear war exists.

In pursuance of the aim of invading the northern half of our republic and socialist countries with South Korea as a springboard the U.S. imperialists have deployed at least 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons or more than half of the nuclear weapons stockpiled in the Asian region, turning it into the biggest nuclear advance base in the Far East.

The source of nuclear war should be removed to prevent a nuclear war.

To this end it is necessary to check and thwart the U.S. imperialists' policy of nuclear war.

All the peace-loving countries should actively support initiatives for creating nuclear-free, peace zones and join this movement and push it forward.

The world's peace-loving countries and people should join efforts to deliver collective blows at the imperialists' nuclear arms race and nuclear war moves, firmly united under the banner of anti-imperialism, anti-war, anti-nuke, and peace.

The Korean people under the unfurled banner of independence against imperialism and anti-nuke and peace will as ever vigorously struggle against the imperialists' aggression and nuclear war moves and for the universal and complete nuclear disarmament and deny nuclearisation and peace of the world.

U.S. Said Planning To Keep Forces in South

*SK180451 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0438 GMT 18 Jan 88*

[Text] Pyongyang January 18 (KCNA)—According to a report, Hayes, commander-in-chief of the U.S. imperialist aggression armed forces in the Pacific, on January 16 had huddles with the director of the Japanese Defence Agency on a visit to the United States, at which he revealed the criminal intention of the U.S. imperialists to keep occupying South Korea permanently, hammering away at the poppycock that it is not the time to discuss the question of the withdrawal of the U.S. forces stationed in South Korea.

It is by no means accidental that the utterances were made by a top-level warlike servant of the U.S. imperialists right after we proposed the convocation of a North-South joint conference to dispel the dark cloud of war heavily hanging over the Korean peninsula and bring about a new phase of national reconciliation and unity and in this connection, the letter sent by the joint

meeting of the DPRK Central People's Committee, the Administration Council, political parties and public organisations was handed over to the authorities, political parties, social organizations and people of all social standings in South Korea.

The fact that such utterances were made at talks with the director of the Japanese Defence Agency makes our people watch the situation with heightened vigilance.

Facts show that the U.S. imperialists, in league with the Japanese reactionaries, are obstructing the DPRK's efforts for peace and scheming to lay greater obstacles on the way of the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

Hayes cried that the situation on the Korean peninsula is "fluid," trying to "justify" their aim to perpetuate their occupation of South Korea. Who is to blame for the fluid situation? It is outrageous indeed to say that the "fluid situation" has been created by the North which proposed a large-scale phased disarmament and reduced numerical strength of its army by 100,000 men on its initiative as part of peaceful efforts last year.

It is also a sheer lie that the fluid situation is not created by the United States that deployed over 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons in South Korea against the DPRK which has no nuclear weapon.

The U.S. imperialists must drop a silly trick to mislead public opinion and to obstruct the DPRK's efforts for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

Urged To Remove Weapons

*SK170820 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0811 GMT 17 Jan 88*

[Text] Pyongyang January 17 (KCNA)—The United States must withdraw without delay all aggression forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea, not going against the aspiration and demand of the Korean people and the world's peace-loving people.

NODONG SINMUN today stresses this in a signed article titled "Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is Important Link for Global Peace".

The paper says that one of the most important conditions for preventing nuclear war and guaranteeing peace at present is to remove the danger of nuclear war daily growing on the Korean peninsula.

Noting that U.S. imperialism is trying to invade the northern half of the republic and other socialist countries taking South Korea as a base, the paper points to the fact that it has already deployed more than 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons in South Korea and is constantly replenishing new nuclear weapons.

What is more serious is that the U.S. imperialists' nuclear strategy is being translated into practice, the paper notes, and continued:

The "Team Spirit" joint military exercise which began in 1976 has become today an overall nuclear war rehearsal.

The use of U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea does not require any agreement or procedure and the local commander of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces has the right to press the nuclear button.

As recognized by world public, if a nuclear war broke out in Korea, it would easily spread into a world thermo-nuclear war.

In order to prevent the danger of nuclear war and safeguard peace in Korea, it is imperative to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone.

If all nuclear weapons are withdrawn from South Korea along with the U.S. forces, the danger of nuclear war will be dispelled from Korea, a bright prospect be opened on the road to peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification and global peace be maintained and consolidated.

Troops Seen as 'Overt Challenge'

*SK161007 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0958 GMT 16 Jan 88*

[Text] Pyongyang January 16 (KCNA)—U.S. Undersecretary of Defence Fred Ikle in his press interview in Washington on January 12 prattled that the presence of the U.S. troops in South Korea and military support to it "should be continued", crying over fictitious "threat" by someone, according to a report.

His remarks are not only a brigandish outburst revealing once again the attempt of the U.S. imperialists for their aggression troops' permanent occupation of South Korea but also an overt challenge to the Korean people and the world peace-loving people who aspire after disarmament on the Korean peninsula and its peaceful reunification.

The United States is not at all justified in having brought nuclear weapons to South Korea and made it a nuclear base in confrontation with us who possess no nuclear arms. If these nuclear weapons are aimed at another socialist country, it ought to withdraw them as well as its troops from South Korea now that it has concluded a nuclear disarmament treaty with the Soviet Union.

But his remarks only betray the aggressive wild ambition of the U.S. imperialists to keep hold on South Korea as their colony permanently.

The U.S. imperialists must not harbour anachronistic delusion but withdraw their aggression forces from South Korea in step with the trend of the time.

U.S. Termed as Obstacle in Central America
SK191009 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1000 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Pyongyang January 19 (KCNA)—It is the aggressive policy of U.S. imperialism that impedes peace process in Central America and continuously threatens peace in this region, says NODONG SINMUN today in a signed article.

The article says:

National Security Adviser to the U.S. President Powell recently stated that his trips to four Central American countries including Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador were intended for U.S. "assistance" to the peace efforts of Central American nations. But this is a lie.

The United States does not want peace in Central America. It persistently seeks an aggressive aim to stifle the Nicaraguan revolution and the progressive forces aspiring after Chajusong and consolidate its domination in this region.

This is proved by developments since the signing of the Guatemala accord.

The U.S. imperialists' moves to block peace process in Central America became pronounced in the Nicaraguan problem.

The Nicaraguan problem was caused by the U.S. interference in her internal affairs. Reagan, however, turned down the peace initiative of the Nicaraguan government for direct talks with the United States. This clearly indicates that the U.S. has no willing to settle the Nicaraguan problem peacefully.

Far from respecting the Guatemala accord, the U.S. is continuing its support and aid to the contras counter-revolutionary bandits.

The U.S. had the effrontery to demand that "free elections" be held in Nicaragua as a precondition for an end to its support and aid to the contras clique. It aims to deprive Nicaragua of the gains of the revolution and establish a social system and order in its favor.

This demand contradictory to the Guatemala accord shows what a shameless robber the U.S. is.

The contras clique, manipulated by U.S. imperialism, impudently insists on direct talks, not indirect talks, with the Nicaraguan government. Lurking behind it is a sinister intention of U.S. imperialism to have the contras clique recognized as an independent political force and use it in achieving its ambition for aggression on Nicaragua.

It is brazen-faced for U.S. imperialism, which has blocked peace process in Central America in violation of the Guatemala accord, to pretend to seek a way of "helping" the peace efforts of the Central American nations.

The U.S. imperialists are trying to shift the blame for the failure to fulfil the Guatemala accord and push peace process in this region owing to their schemes on to Nicaragua and alienate this country from Central America. This is why Powell was dispatched to Central American countries. Nicaragua is the only country that was excluded from Powell's Central American tour.

Takeshita Remarks During U.S. Trip Criticized
SK210431 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0424 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Pyongyang January 21 (KCNA)—Japanese prime minister Takeshita visited the United States from January 13, according to a report.

In his talks with Reagan and others Takeshita zealously supported the U.S. imperialists in the "two Koreas" plot and the policy of permanent occupation of South Korea and repeatedly assured them that Japan would do its bit in their implementation.

In his announcement at the White House after his talks with Reagan, Takeshita, pointing to the Korean question, stressed, "Reagan and I confirmed close cooperation for the success of the Seoul Olympics."

This shows that following in the footsteps of his predecessor Takeshita promised his master to actively partake of the U.S. imperialists' aggressive Korean strategy and continue following the policy of division and war against Korea and invariably pursue the hostile policy toward the DPRK.

Everyone knows that now the domestic and foreign splittists, trampling underfoot the idea of the Olympic games, are trying to use "the Seoul Olympics" for a foul political purpose to create "two Koreas".

Under such conditions, it is as clear as noonday what Takeshita had in mind when he talked about "cooperation for the Olympiad" and "efforts for peace on the Korean peninsula".

During his trip to the United States, Takeshita also discussed the further strengthening of the Japan-U.S. military alliance.

Takeshita and Reagan in their talks reaffirmed that U.S.-Japan alliance is vital and discussed the problem of the military situation in the Pacific and Southeast Asia as a whole, arms buildup of Japan, Japan's bearing of expenses for the upkeep of U.S. forces in Japan and other matters and agreed that the two sides would closely cooperate with each other.

These facts foretell that the U.S. and Japanese reactionaries will further strengthen their military tieup in the future and desperately step up the reckless scheme to attain their aggressive purposes, in Asia.

This cannot but arouse due vigilance on the part of the Korean people and other peoples of Asia.

Plans To Visit South Viewed

SK161023 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1009 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Pyongyang January 16 (KCNA)—Japanese Prime Minister Takeshita was reported to have expressed during his visit to the United States his intention to visit South Korea to attend the opening ceremony of '88 Olympiad. Earlier, he said that when traitor No Tae-u's victory in the "presidential elections" was rigged up he would travel to South Korea to attend his "inauguration" slated for February. In this connection NODONG SINMUN today in a signed commentary notes: No sooner had Takeshita become prime minister than he announced his plan to visit South Korea twice a year, an exceptional one. This suggests what great weight he puts to this trip.

It is clear that Takeshita, following in the footsteps of his predecessors, is going to keep to their policy of aggression against the Korean people and further step it up, it observes, and goes on:

Takeshita made it plain that his planned trip to South Korea to attend traitor No's "inauguration" and the opening ceremony of Olympic games was intended to demonstrate before the domestic and foreign public Japan's "all-round assistance" to South Korea and build a "relationship of trust" with him.

This tells that he wants to turn No's "inauguration" and Olympiad opening ceremony into platforms to conduct an anti-communist, anti-DPRK smear campaign and avail himself of the occasions to hold huddles over tightening the aggressive and predatory tieup with the South Korean puppets and providing military backing to them.

Having received a relay baton for war preparations from his predecessor, Takeshita is showing extra zeal in supporting a new military dictatorial regime in South Korea and boosting the triangular military fusion involving the United States, Japan and South Korea.

Takeshita is attaching so much importance to his South Korean junket because of the plot of the U.S. imperialists and the Japanese reactionaries to keep Korea divided forever.

"Utmost efforts" for the "success of Olympiad" or "role of mediator" and "role of bridge" on his lips have nothing in common with the peace on the Korean peninsula and the peaceful reunification of Korea but wholly run counter to them.

The reactionary ruling quarters of Japan pursue the aim of perpetuating the Korean division and using South Korea as their "anti-communist breakwater" in the service of the U.S. imperialists' policy of war and, at the same time, utilizing it as a tool for protecting the militarist policy in Japan and a permanent springboard for its overseas expansion. The policy of the new prime minister of Japan is oriented, after all, to serve this aim.

Aid To South Korea Criticized

OW160815 Tokyo KYODO in English 0758 GMT
16 Jan 88

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 16 KYODO—A leading North Korean newspaper editorially criticized Saturday a planned visit to South Korea by Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita in February.

The editorial in the NODONG SINMUN, official newspaper of the Korean Workers' Party, said Takeshita's visit to Seoul to attend the inaugural ceremony of President No Tae-u is designed to pledge Japan's military support for South Korea.

It said Takeshita is following the footstep of his predecessor, Yasuhiro Nakasone, in supporting what it called the military dictatorship in the South and pushing ahead the plot to form a military alliance among the United States, Japan and South Korea.

The editorial described Japan's 4 billion dollar aid package pledged to South Korea by Nakasone's government as military assistance.

It said Japan's support for the 1988 Seoul Olympics has nothing to do with peace and peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula but, in fact, runs counter to the current of times.

O Kuk-yol Meets Syrian Military Delegation

SK190446 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0428 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Pyongyang January 19 (KCNA)—O Kuk-yol, chief of General Staff of the Korean People's Army, met and had a friendly conversation with the government military delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic led by Hikmat al-Shihabi, member of the regional leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party and chief of general staff of the Army and Armed Forces of the Syrian Arab Republic, on January 18 when the delegation paid a courtesy call on him.

On hand was general of the Korean People's Army Kim Kwang-chin.

Talks were held Monday between the two chiefs of General Staff.

O Kuk-yol, Syrians Give Speeches

*SK210510 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
2300 GMT 18 Jan 88*

[Text] The Ministry of the People's Armed Forces arranged a banquet on the evening of 18 January in honor of the government military delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The members of the delegation headed by Hikmat al-Shihabi, member of the regional leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party and chief of the general staff of the army and armed forces of the Syrian Arab Republic, and Hani Habib, ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic to our country, were invited to the banquet.

Comrade O Kuk-yol, chief of general staff of the KPA; KPA General Kim Kwang-chin; and other KPA generals and officers were present at the banquet.

Comrade O Kuk-yol spoke first at the banquet.

He said that Korea and Syria are both in Asia and that the people of the two countries are linked by ties of firm militant friendship established through the commonality of their past positions and of their present struggle for new lives.

He noted the economic might and defense capabilities strengthened by the Syrian people in consolidating national unity and advancing toward socialism under the leadership of the his excellency respected President Hafiz al-Asad and the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party.

He said that we extend full support and firm solidarity to the struggle of the Syrian people and officers and men of the Syrian Army and armed forces to check and frustrate the anti-Syria moves of the imperialists and Zionists and to achieve a fair and comprehensive solution of the Middle East issues, including the Palestinian issue. Noting the new guidelines for the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland, which the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song put forth in his new year address for this year, he said that he expresses gratitude to the Syrian people and army and armed forces for the firm solidarity which they always extend to the Korean people's struggle for unification of the country.

Hikmat al-Shihabi, head of the delegation, spoke next.

Saying that he was boundlessly pleased by the visit to the fraternal DPRK, he said that his visit to our country would greatly contribute to developing the friendly and cooperative relations between the two parties, countries, and peoples.

He said that the development of such friendly and cooperative relations will be all the more everlasting because of the intimacy between the great leader his excellency President Kim Il-song and his excellency respected President Hafiz al-Asad.

Saying that the fraternal Korean people are today vigorously struggling to make the U.S. imperialists withdraw from South Korea and to achieve the reunification of the country, he said that the struggle of the Korean people is strongly supported and encouraged by the people of the entire world who oppose reactionaries, imperialists, and fascists, and who love peace.

He stated that the South Korean people's struggle for the withdrawal of the U.S. forces and democratization of the society and freedom is also supported by the peace-loving people of the world.

Saying that his party and government will continue to stand on our side, he stressed that they fully support the just DPRK proposals, such as those for the complete withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea, for the liquidation of their nuclear bases and weapons of mass destruction, for the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea, and for the establishment of the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo.

Those present at the banquet toasted to the everlasting friendship and unity between the people and armies of the two countries; to the good health and long life of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song; to the good health and long life of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il; and to the good health and long life of the his excellency respected President Hafiz al-Asad.

O Chin-u Greeted by Afghan Defense Minister

*SK170807 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0802 GMT 17 Jan 88*

[Text] Pyongyang January 17 (KCNA)—Lieutenant General Muhammad Rafi', minister of national defence of the Republic of Afghanistan, in his message of solidarity to Vice Marshal of the Korean People's Army O Chin-u, minister of People's Armed Forces, fully supported the communique of the supreme command of the Korean People's Army that its armymen were unilaterally reduced by 100,000 till the end of 1987 in order to make a breakthrough for arms cut on the Korean peninsula.

The message said:

Condemning the adventurous moves and cursed plan of the U.S. imperialists and highly praising your wise and peaceful initiatives to reunify the North and the South of Korea in a peaceful way, we express once again indestructible international solidarity with the fraternal Korean people and wish them great victory in their just struggle.

Noble Spirit of Young Communists Hailed

SK201045 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1024 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Pyongyang January 20 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a signed article titled "Noble Revolutionary Spirit of Young Communists and Inheritance of Tradition of Unity".

The article says:

In his work "On Some Problems of Education in the Chuche Idea", dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, putting forward a policy of conducting education in revolutionary traditions on the basis of the fundamental principles of the chuche idea, laid stress on learning from the noble revolutionary spirit of young communists who, with respected Comrade Kim Il-song as the centre of unity and leadership, fought at the cost of their lives to carry through his ideas and policies at the dawn of our revolution.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau, and secretary, of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, said:

"In order to complete through the succeeding generations the revolutionary cause of chuche pioneered by respected Comrade Kim Il-song, we must learn and follow the noble revolutionary spirit of the young communists who, with respected Comrade Kim Il-song as the centre of unity and leadership, fought at the risk of their lives to implement his ideas and policies at the dawn of our revolution. This is the way to maintain the purity of the shining tradition of the unbreakable unity of the leader, the party and the masses, the unity which our revolutionary forerunners achieved at the cost of their lives, and to strengthen and develop our party which has grown from deep and strong roots into an eternal revolutionary party, a party which never ceases to struggle."

It is of weighty significance in strengthening and developing the subject of revolution to carry forward the purity of the tradition of unity.

The subject of the revolution means the integrated whole of the leader, the party and the masses. It strengthens and develops throughout a long historical process.

What is most important in the subject of revolution, its historical root, is the tradition of unity.

The main thing in the tradition of unity is the revolutionary spirit fully displayed at the beginning of the revolution.

The Korean Young Communists were the first generation who held the great Comrade Kim Il-song in high esteem as the centre of unity, the leader of revolution.

They held him in high esteem out of their unshakable faith and obligation, seeing the future of the Korean revolution in his greatness in so grim period.

They had not a slightest selfishness in carrying out his ideas and policies and had a clear faith of trusting and following him from the beginning to the last moment of their lives.

It was because of such spirit that was prevailing in revolutionary ranks that the kindred unity of the leader and the masses could be achieved and the tradition of unity be firmly defended in each period of the hardest ordeals of the Korean revolution.

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il in his work set it as an important matter of maintaining the tradition of unity to learn and follow the noble spirit of the young communists. This is the most just policy based on the historic experience and summing-up of our revolution.

To learn and follow the noble revolutionary spirit of the young communists is, first of all, an important need for our party members and working people to unite closely around the party and the leader with a firm revolutionary outlook on the leader.

The long experience of the revolutionary struggle shows that only when revolutionaries have a revolutionary outlook on the leader can they unite around the leader and maintain the tradition of unity of the leader, the party and the masses in any adversity.

To learn and follow the noble revolutionary spirit of the young communists also gives a firm guarantee for firmly defending the cohesion and unity of our party and revolutionary ranks under whatever circumstances.

It is an obligation to the leader that both young and old generations should cherish deep in their hearts and invariably defend today when revolution advances far and we are faced with heavy revolutionary tasks.

If our rising generation fight with revolutionary duty and comradely love as the young communists did, they can resolutely struggle to the end for their leader, their party and their fatherland, without the slightest vacillation in any storm and stress.

To learn and follow the noble revolutionary spirit of young communists is also essential for strengthening the might of the subject of revolution in every way to step up revolution and construction.

The noble revolutionary spirit our people should learn from the young communists is the steadfast stand of accepting the great leader's ideas and policies as absolute truth and thinking and acting according to them. It is also the spirit of carrying them through unconditionally

in any adversity with unbounded dedication. It is the noblest spirit which can be displayed only by the revolutionary soldiers who follow the leader.

The noble revolutionary spirit of the young communists created at the dawn of the Korean revolution is the precious wealth to resolutely defend and safeguard the tradition of cohesion and unity of the leader, the party and the masses. It vigorously leads our people to eternal unity.

South Korea

U.S. Official Allowed To Meet Kim Hyon-hui
SK210923 Seoul YONHAP in English
0913 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Seoul, Jan. 21 (YONHAP)—A U.S. Government official has met with a North Korean woman who confessed her role in the bombing of a South Korean jetliner, a source at the Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

The source said the meeting between the U.S. official and Kim Hyon-hui, 26, was arranged in accordance with the South Korean Government's recent announcement that it will allow such meetings if a country concerned so requests.

The source, however, did not elaborate on when or where the meeting took place or what was discussed.

It said that the meeting was part of the preparatory moves leading up to the U.S. Government's diplomatic sanctions against North Korea.

Miss Kim, who identified herself as a specially trained North Korean agent, said at a news conference last Friday that she and her dead male companion, also a veteran North Korean agent, had planted explosives aboard Korean Air flight 858 on the direct orders of Kim Chong-il, son and heir apparent of North Korean leader Kim Il-song. [passage omitted]

The South Korean Government has said it will refrain from taking any military retaliation against North Korea but will seek international sanctions.

The U.S. State Department Wednesday placed North Korea on its terrorist list, while condemning the North for failing to live up to the standards of civilized behavior.

Foreign Nations Denounce North for Bombing
SK210145 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
21 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] West Germany, Malaysia and Indonesia have denounced the Nov. 29 north Korean bombing of a Korean Air passenger jet, the Foreign Ministry announced yesterday.

The West German government was reported as saying that it was shocked by the results of an investigation that showed north Korean involvement in the midair destruction of the plane.

It said all crimes against civilian airliners must be firmly condemned.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Rais Yatim said in a statement that his government strongly condemns and deplores the destruction of the KAL plane.

"The perpetrators of the incident, from whichever quarter they may be, must be brought to justice. The Malaysian government has consistently condemned such acts of terrorism, which endanger innocent lives and pose a serious threat to the safety of civil aviation.

"It is imperative that there is universal condemnation of such acts of terrorism and nation-states will renounce recourse to such action to achieve their objectives," he said.

Dr. Naro, deputy speaker of the Indonesian parliament, said it would be natural to take measures to isolate north Korea in the international community.

"The explosion of an airplane loaded with people having no involvement with any political problems is a crime under whichever system of law. More so if the explosion... is aimed at disrupting the forthcoming Olympic Games.

"We obviously cannot tolerate violent actions, moreover if those actions are to eliminate the souls of the innocent people having no relation with the political issues whatsoever, like what has happened in the case of the KAL explosion," Naro said.

Kim Chong-yol, Others at Olympic Flag Raising
SK200302 Seoul YONHAP in English
0225 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 20 (YONHAP)—The national flags of 161 countries which accepted the invitation to attend the 1988 Seoul Summer Olympics were raised in a ceremony at the Olympic Center here Wednesday.

Prime Minister Kim Chong-yol, Seoul city mayor Kim Yong-nae and Pak Se-chik, president of the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee (SLOOC), attended the ceremony which marked the first time that the flags of participating countries were raised prior to the Olympiad. The flags of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the SLOOC were also hoisted along with those of participating countries.

Prime Minister Kim said in an address that the Seoul Olympics will be a grand festival of mankind which will best manifest the Olympic spirit of peace.

Kim said that the North Korea-engineered destruction of a Korean Air (KAL) jet, which killed 115 innocent people, should be condemned by the people of the world and he strongly urged that the North Korean regime immediately halt such barbarous acts.

A woman suspected of sabotage who was extradited from Bahrain to Seoul confessed last week during a nationally televised news conference that she was a North Korean agent and that she and her male companion had planted a time bomb on the KAL jet which vanished near Burma on Nov. 29 last year.

Meanwhile, SLOOC president Pak said that the expressed participation by 161 countries, which accounts for 96.4 percent of the IOC membership, is an unprecedented achievement.

The fact that the festival of reconciliation between the East and West will be held in Seoul is not only a triumph for the IOC and international sports leaders but also a victory for the South Korean people, Pak said.

The flags were raised one after another in a row outside the Olympic Center and also in the lobby of the center with the IOC and SLOOC flags hoisted first. flags of participating countries were raised in accordance with the order of entrance for the games' opening ceremony on Sept. 17, in Korean hangul alphabetical order.

While a navy brass band played the Olympic theme, Kim handed over the IOC flag to a flag-raising official, to begin the raising of the flags. The flags of the SLOOC, Greece and Gabon followed. Taegukki, South Korea's national flag, was hoisted last.

More on Olympic Security Preparations
SK200154 Seoul YONHAP in English
0038 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Third of a four-part series, by O Chae-sok; second part, on accommodations and transportation, was not filed]

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 20 (YONHAP)—Security is a word that has seen frequent use among South Koreans over the past three-and-a-half decades. But the South Korean people, host this year of the world's biggest sports festival, now have an added dimension of security to consider.

The reason for this is that the estimated 15,000 foreign athletes and officials who will come to Seoul from almost every part of the earth for the Seoul Summer Olympics must be protected from both internal and external threats including the danger posed by South Korea's deadly adversary—North Korea.

It cannot be emphasized too much that the successful hosting of the first boycott-free Olympics in 16 years depends largely on the protection given the participants and the services provided to them, ensuring that the Seoul games will be the most peaceful and festive in Olympic history.

Security has been a matter of serious concern at international sporting events since 1972, when a group of Palestinian guerrillas killed 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics.

Just 56 kilometers north of Seoul is the border between South and North Korea which have remained divided since the three-year Korean war came to an end in 1953. Pyongyang, which has officially turned down an invitation to participate in the games, has reportedly deployed an estimated 500,000 armed troops along the 155-mile-long border, thereby heightening tensions on the peninsula.

Despite the view that the participation in the Seoul games by the Soviet Union and China, North Korea's major allies, will help contribute to the deterrence of possible disruptive acts by the North both before and during the games, a security official at the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee (SLOOC) said, we won't allow ourselves to have a final sigh of relief until the last airplane transporting the participants takes off safely from the tarmac at Kimpo International Airport.

The official, who asked not to be identified but who said he observed security measures at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, described the security preparations for the Seoul Olympics as the toughest ever for an Olympiad, adding that Koreans are extremely security conscious and the world can have confidence in our security measures. Although he declined to give details about Seoul's security measures, the official noted that security at the Seoul Olympics in terms of planning, manpower and equipment will be on a far larger scale than that of the 1986 Seoul Asian Games, which South Korea used as a full-dress rehearsal for the Olympics.

Despite the geographic division of the peninsula, the official went on to say, Seoul has an advantage over Los Angeles in the sense that it enjoys a stricter chain of command than the latter because most of the security personnel come from the nation's 120,000-strong police force under the umbrella of the National Police Headquarters.

During the 1984 Olympic games, the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee employed some 12,000 private security guards who worked in coordination with the L.A. Metropolitan Police Force. at the 1986 Asian Games in Seoul, up to 50,000 security guards were reportedly directly involved in the protection of athletes, officials and sports facilities.

The security planning in Seoul is certain to be managed with enhanced efficiency and coordination compared with the Los Angeles games, according to the official.

Recalling the bitter lesson learned in 1986 on Black Sunday, one week before the opening of the Seoul Asiad, security officials have placed greater emphasis on airport security.

It was on Sept. 13, 1986, that an explosive device killed five people and injured 19 others at Seoul's Kimpo Airport. While no group or individual immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing, security officials placed the blame on North Korea.

Since that incident, security at the airport has been tightened with specially trained counter-terrorist squads armed with machine gun conducting thorough search operations in and around the airport.

In an effort to give foreign visitors a better impression of South Korea, the Korea International Airports Authority (KIAA) plans for women to replace the men who conduct security checks on people entering Kimpo International Airport terminals in order to undergo departure procedures.

A KIAA spokesman said some foreign visitors, particularly women, have complained about the rude manner in which males have conducted security checks on them and their baggage.

According to the KIAA, the 127-member female security squad will begin work on Feb. 5.

Meanwhile, the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee plans to utilize some 3,000 volunteers fluent in foreign languages to help protect and guide participating athletes and officials.

Among the up-to-date modern scientific equipment to be installed for the security of the athletes' village is an electronic intrusion detection system, which can detect any minimal touch of the fenced wall and automatically alert the central control room in the village. A special x-ray system will also be introduced that can detect plastic bombs such as composition C4. Authorities disclosed on Jan. 15 that North Korean agents had planted composition C4 on a Korean Air (KAL) jetliner which vanished near Burma last November with 115 people aboard.

Daily security checks on the Olympic venues and facilities are being conducted by the 88 security squad, which was inaugurated well ahead of the 1986 Asian Games.

Efforts are also under way outside the country between South Korea and Japan to jointly cope with possible terrorist threats including those posed by the North both before and during the Seoul Olympics slated for Sept. 17-Oct. 2.

The South Korean government is also studying a plan to establish a Korea-Japan anti-terrorism council that will facilitate the close cooperation between the two countries' police, investigative and security authorities.

The projected organization, tentatively named the Korea-Japan Olympic Anti-terrorism Council, will discuss joint efforts for the prevention of terrorism and exchange information on international terrorists and terrorist groups.

A government official said South Korea and the United States have already established a similar organization which meets when necessary.

Recognizing that perfect protection is the best service that we can provide for our guests during the games, an SLOOC official said, all 40 million Koreans will be very glad to be security conscious for the safety of foreign guests and to welcome them with warm hearts.

Chon Orders Preparations To Block Terrorists
SK210312 Seoul YONHAP in English
0253 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 21 (YONHAP)—South Korean president Chon Tu-hwan Thursday instructed the nation's counterespionage authorities to be fully prepared to block any North Korean attempts to disrupt the Seoul Olympic games.

Chon said that North Korea, by staying away from the Seoul games when even its communist allies led by the Soviet Union and China will participate, has revealed its reckless nature and propensity for committing inhumane atrocities at any time and any place.

Recalling the North's 1968 attack on the presidential residence, the 1983 bombing in Rangoon, Burma, and the recent bombing of a Korean Air jetliner, Chon condemned the North Korean communists and warned that they are now trying to recruit international groups to take part in their frantic terrorist acts and armed provocations.

In an unsuccessful raid on the presidential residence in 1968, 30 out of 31 North Korean commandos were shot to death and more than one hundred civilians were killed. The Rangoon bombing carried out by North Korean agents in 1983 against a presidential entourage killed 17 South Korean officials. In the KAL tragedy last year, 115 passengers and crew members perished.

At the Chongwadae (presidential residence) conference on counterespionage policies, Chon also called for efforts to halt leftist moves to expand their influence in South Korean society warning that such moves could increase the likelihood of North Korean provocations.

Terming the year 1988 as a very vulnerable period for national security, Chon said that South Korea will secure a firm war deterrence and a foundation for another economic take-off once it successfully carries out such national tasks as the Olympics.

Wants Strike Preventive Measures

SK200307 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
20 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] President Chon Tu-hwan yesterday called upon the Labor Ministry to increase administrative support and guidance for industrial businesses to ensure that various conflicts between workers and management can be solved in an autonomous manner.

While being briefed on this year's labor policy at Chongwadae, President Chon said that another wave of labor disputes may sweep enterprises this coming spring.

The Chief Executive urged labor officials to take precautionary steps to prevent the recurrence of labor strife, taking last year's serious labor conflicts as a warning.

After the Labor Ministry's policy briefing session, Chon received separate briefings from the Ministries of Health and Social Affairs, and Government Administration, and the Office of Patriots and Veterans Administration.

Chon asked the Ministry of Government Administration to strengthen cooperation with other organs for the effective utilization of administrative manpower in the successful staging of the September Summer Olympics.

The President particularly told the ministry to work out measures so that officials working on the Olympics are not disadvantaged after the completion of the event.

The ministry was also told to continue its efforts to improve the treatment of public officials so that they can devote themselves to their duty with pride.

Government Accepts Some U.S. Import Demands

SK210147 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
21 Jan 88 p 6

[By KOREA TIMES correspondent Yi Chae-song]

[Text] Washington—The Korean government has accepted U.S. demands for the opening of insurance and cigarette markets, trade sources said here Tuesday.

The motion in favor of the U.S. will be announced to the American side on Thursday through diplomatic channels, the sources said.

But the beef imports will be allowed after the upcoming general election for use at tourist hotels.

Import of U.S. beef, cigarettes and permitting American insurance companies to operate here have been the major bone of contention in the trade friction between Seoul and Washington.

Korea reportedly decided to lower the domestic sale prices of U.S. cigarettes to 750 won per pack from the present 1,300 won, the sources said.

The Korean government originally proposed a drop in U.S. cigarette prices to the 800 won level, while U.S. government has been insisting on 700 won.

As for the insurance market, the Korean government has decided to allow Aetna and Metropolitan to jointly invest with Dongbu and Kolon groups, which are ranked among the top 30 business groups in Korea, thus yielding to U.S. pressure.

The Korean government has been in firm that it would not allow the joint venture between top 30 Korean business groups and U.S. life insurance companies in the Korean markets in a bid to decentralize wealth in large businesses.

As for beef imports, the U.S. side maintained that effective date for the import of U.S. beef will be within 30 days of the general elections and May 1.

The scope of beef to be allowed for importation will be those for use at first class restaurants as well as tourist hotels, the U.S. side demanded. The Americans also requested that the Korean government allows importation of beef for general restaurants from Dec. 1, the sources said.

The Korean government's decision will be delivered to U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter on Thursday and will await response from the U.S. side, the sources said.

Against this backdrop, the embassy sources said that the negotiations over the three issues between Korea and the United States would start after the U.S. government studies the position of the Korean government.

They added, however, that at present, it was remote that the United States would soon mobilize Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act against imports of Korean products.

Instead, they and other business experts in Washington said that if the United States would take issue with imports of top quality beef, it would file a petition with the General Agreement on Trade and Tariff rather than resorting to Section 301.

Even though the details of the government position on the liberalization of imports are not generally known, it is learned that the government would allow imports of top quality beef from the United States only after the upcoming general elections which might take place before May.

But the government made it clear that it would not liberalize imports of general beef this year despite the U.S. demand to do so.

The government also decreased the legal paid-in capital of joint life insurance firms established between domestic businesses and U.S. life underwriters from the earlier set 10 billion won to 5 billion won.

Japan To Question Convicted Spy in Prison
SK210321 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
21 Jan 88 p 3

[Text] Tokyo (YONHAP)—Japanese security authorities suspect a north Korean spy currently serving a prison term in south Korea was involved in a series of disappearances of Japanese youths ten years ago, the TOKYO SHIMBUN said Tuesday.

The newspaper said the authorities would ask south Korea to allow their investigators to question the spy, Sin Kwang-su.

Japan intends to send police investigators to Seoul to interrogate a north Korean woman agent who confessed to blowing up a south Korean jetliner. They want to identify a Japanese woman called Eunhye, who they suspect was kidnapped from Japan.

The agent, Kim Hyon-hui, said a Japanese woman had trained her in the Japanese way of life as well as the Japanese language in Pyongyang for several years.

Sin, along with three others, run a spy ring based in a Chinese restaurant in Osaka from 1973 until he was arrested in February 1985 while entering south Korea under the false name of Hara.

He later confessed that in June 1980 he had kidnapped a Japanese cook working at the restaurant named Tadaaki Hara, then 44, to north Korea and used his identity as his own.

RDP Finalizes Draft Revision of Election Law
SK200309 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
20 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] The Reunification Democratic Party yesterday finalized its draft revision to the parliamentary election law based on a plural-member district format.

The draft divides the nation into 110 constituencies which will elect two to four candidates in accordance with their population size.

According to the draft, two Assembly seats will be allotted to a constituency with a population between 150,000 and 450,000, three seats to one with a population between 450,000 and 650,000 and four seats to one with a population over 650,000.

The 100 regional constituencies break down to 79 two-member districts, 29 three-member districts and two four-member districts. Thus, the number of lawmakers elected from regional constituencies totals 253.

In addition, the draft sets aside 85 seats or one third of the 253 elected seats for lawmakers from national constituencies who will be named by political parties in proportion to their Assembly presence.

The RDP draft advocates the current 18-day electioneering period and allows candidates to hold more joint rallies.

It also stipulates that watchdog officials should be sent to voting stations inside military camps and that counting of absentee votes should be conducted separately from that of normal votes.

Early Agreement Appears Out
SK200251 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
20 Jan 88 p 2

["News Analysis" column By staff reporter Choe Nam-hyon: "Conflicting Interests rule Out Early Accord on House Election"]

[Text] "We have agreed to make joint efforts to conclude talks on rewriting the parliamentary election law during the current National Assembly session," said a negotiator from the ruling Democratic Justice Party.

But he was promptly corrected by an opposition delegate, who said, "No, we have agreed to make joint efforts to conclude the talks during the current session if it is possible."

Emerging from their first closed session on revising the election law Monday, the two delegates announced the outcome of their talks, which showed they were far apart on particulars of the next general election.

The ruling DJP, which won the Dec. 16 presidential election, wants to hold the parliamentary election as soon as possible, possibly next month.

But opposition parties, which need a breathing space for regrouping after the defeat, favor April for the election.

The two sides also have sharp differences over how to redraw constituency borders and how many lawmakers to elect from constituencies.

The ruling party began separate talks with three opposition parties—the Reunification Democratic Party, the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] and the new Democratic Republican Party [NDRP]—at the National Assembly Monday.

One major defect with this format of talks is that an accord reached by the DJP with one opposition party may not be endorsed by other opposition parties.

The DJP and the PPD agreed Monday to hold four-party talks when negotiations are stalled, but the RDP refused to sit together with the PPD and the NDRP.

A draft revision to the election law, put on the table by the DJP for negotiation, allows up to four lawmakers to represent an electoral district.

The RDP, which had favored the election of one lawmaker from each constituency, changed party policy and decided to stick to the current system of picking two lawmakers from each district.

The PPD is holding on to the election of one lawmaker from each electoral district while the NDRP favors the election of two to five.

Under the DJP draft revision, one lawmaker would be picked from rural districts where the ruling party is strong.

In urban constituencies where the opposition has a competitive edge over the DJP, two to four lawmakers would be selected.

The DJP proposal is opposed by the RDP, whose lawmakers demanded the party policy of selecting one lawmaker from each district be dropped in favor of the current system.

They said they stand a better chance of being elected under the current system of picking two congressmen from each constituency.

The PPD, however, insists the opposition should avoid easy coexistence with the ruling party and that it should fight it out for one Assembly seat in each district.

This rigid attitude of the PPD is more appealing to dissidents who are its political base.

These conflicting interests of the four major parties will make it difficult to reach an accord on a revision to the election law at an early date.

The negotiations are expected to be further hampered by the ruling party's hope to have the Assembly in its firm control.

Under the new Constitution that will take effect on the same day President-elect No Tae-u is sworn in, Feb. 25, the Assembly will be made more powerful than now.

The president will no longer be able to dissolve the Assembly, which will find it easier than now to meddle in government by invoking its authority to investigate state affairs.

The ruling party, which wants to win a majority of seats to control the Assembly, finds it difficult to make concessions to the opposition.

If negotiators fail to strike an accord on rewriting the election law and setting the election date, party presidents may have to step in and negotiate directly.

Splinter Parties Hold Contacts for Alliance
SK200316 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
20 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] Heads of the three splinter opposition parties are holding a series of contacts with each other to form an alliance for the upcoming parliamentary election.

Sin To-hwan, president of the new Korea Democratic Party [NKDP], said yesterday that he is advocating the merger of the three small opposition parties—the NKDP, Yi Man-sop's Korea National Party and Yu Chi-song's Democratic Korea Party.

Sin said that nothing concrete has been made but that lawmakers of the minor opposition parties are not in a position to join Kim Yong-sam's Reunification Democratic Party on an individual basis.

RDP president Kim Yong-sam is said to have contacted lawmakers of the splinter opposition parties to allure them into the RDP on an individual basis.

KNP president Yi Man-sop, who saw three KNP lawmakers depart the party yesterday, said that all opposition parties must be integrated. He opined that partial unification of the divided opposition camp is meaningless.

"If opposition unity is realized," he said, "I will not stick to the presidency of the KNP."

He called on Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung to retreat from an active opposition leadership after an opposition alliance is realized.

He said the two Kims must bear full responsibility for failing to field a single opposition presidential candidate during the December election.

DKP president Yu Chi-song, who until 1985 was the head of the nation's largest opposition party, said that it is his earnest wish to see all of the opposition become united before the general election.

Rep. Yu said that he held a series of individual contact with opposition figures, including former parliamentarian Ko Hung-mun.

He added that no progress has been made for the integration of minor opposition parties or opposition camps.

Inauguration Ceremony Set for 25 February
SK210347 Seoul YONHAP in English
0:15 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 21 (YONHAP)—The inauguration ceremony for South Korean President-elect No Tae-u will be held on Feb. 25 at the square in front of the National Assembly building, separate from a ceremony for the outgoing President Chon Tu-hwan.

Yi Chun-ku, chairman of the ruling Democratic Justice Party's presidential inauguration committee, said Thursday that the inauguration ceremony will be conducted in a solemn and simple manner.

Yi said the government and the ruling party have agreed to hold a special ceremony for the outgoing president on Feb. 24 separately from the inauguration ceremony.

A government source said that President Chon will give a speech before representatives from all walks of life at the Feb. 24 ceremony.

No won the country's first direct presidential election in 16 years last December collecting 37 percent of the valid votes to defeat the divided opposition.

No's inauguration will mark the first peaceful change of government in South Korea's 40-year constitutional history.

Burma

Foreign Minister Meets Hungarian Official *BK141422 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese* 1330 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Dr Gabor Nagy, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Hungarian People's Republic, called on U Ye Gaung, minister of foreign affairs, at the Foreign Ministry Annex at 0930 today.

Also present at the meeting were U Saw Hlaing, deputy minister of foreign affairs, and responsible officials.

The visiting deputy minister also paid a courtesy call on U Saw Hlaing. Later, the two deputy ministers held talks on matters of mutual interest.

At 1430, the visiting deputy minister called on U Yan Naung Soe, deputy minister of trade, and later at 1530, on U Khin Maung Maung, deputy minister of industry.

In the evening, the Burmese deputy minister of foreign affairs held a banquet at the Karaweik hall for the visiting deputy minister.

Earlier this morning, the visiting deputy minister toured Shwedagon Pagoda.

Hungarian Deputy Minister Meets Officials *BK160804 Rangoon Domestic Service in English* 0200 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] The prime minister, U Maung Maung Kha, has received the deputy minister for foreign affairs of the Hungarian People's Republic, Dr Gabor Nagy, currently on a visit to Burma, at the Council of Ministers Office. Present at the meeting yesterday were the Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ye Gaung, the Deputy Minister (U Su Sein), the Director General of the Council of Minister's Office, (U Cho Det), and responsible officials.

Later the visiting Hungarian deputy foreign affairs minister paid a courtesy call on the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Planning and Finance U Tun Tin. Deputy Ministers (U Cho Nyit) and (U Nyung Maung) and officials concerned were also present.

The visiting deputy minister also called on the Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Forest (U Sein Nyeit). The Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ye Gaung later gave a luncheon for the guests at the Foreign Ministry Annex. The Hungarian deputy minister for foreign affairs left Rangoon yesterday afternoon and was seen off at Rangoon airport by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Saw Hlaing and responsible officials.

Mauritius Minister, Delegation Arrive *BK191410 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese* 1330 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] A 4-member Mauritius trade delegation headed by Mr D. Gungah, Mauritius minister of trade and navigation, flew in to Rangoon this morning.

The Mauritius minister and his delegation were welcomed at Rangoon Airport by U Khin Maung Gyi, minister of trade; U Yan Naung Soe and Colonel Tin Gyi, deputy ministers of trade; U Tin Aung Tun, director general of the Trade Department; and responsible officials.

It was learned that the Mauritius trade delegation will stay in Burma until 21 January and discuss bilateral trade matters.

Ethnic 'Rebels' To Boost Foreign Contacts *BK160145 Bangkok THE NATION in English* 16 Jan 88 p 5

[Text] Manerplaw, Burma—Representatives of 10 ethnic rebel groups fighting Rangoon met early this month to map out plans to improve their united front's external contacts.

The National Democratic Front's [NDF] so-called second Congress Emergency Presidium Meeting was aimed at improving contacts with foreign governments, international organizations and humanitarian agencies.

The meeting was held at the NDF Headquarters near the confluence of the Salween and Moei rivers in eastern Burma as the Burmese civil war approached its 40th year.

A new momentum in the front's foreign relations has been achieved, following the recent visit by Brang Seng, chairman of the Kachin Independence Organization, to Japan and Europe late last year, said revolutionary spokesmen.

In Europe, Brang Seng, a member of the NDF presidium, met members of the British and West German parliaments, and officials of international humanitarian agencies including the UN Human Rights Commission and the Amnesty International.

Japanese press, BBC, FRANKFURTER ALLEMAGNE, and other European and Asian media interviewed him about the NDF positions on internationally-supervised negotiations with the Rangoon regime, the narcotics situation in Burma and the ongoing actions by Burmese armed forces against non-combatant ethnic minorities.

"The world is finally waking up to the atrocious situation in Burma," claimed the Kachin leader in his temporary thatched bamboo office at the Karen headquarters of Manerplaw.

He and other Kachin officers made the long-trek from northern Burma in 1985-86 to consolidate the NDF struggle with other members.

Apart from the Kachin and the Karen, other NDF members attending the meeting included the Mon, Arakanese, Shan, Karenni, Palaung, Pa-o and Wa. Only the Lahu were absent.

Brang Seng echoed the view expressed by the Karen National Union President Bo Mya who blamed the prolonged struggle on the continued aid given by foreign governments to the Socialist Republic of Burma, referred to by ethnic minority leaders as the "Ne Win-San U regime."

"The post-Ne Win era will be the same unless there are genuine peace negotiations," said Bo Mya. "The regime depends on foreign powers. In their greed to sell arms to Burma, the foreign countries are competing with each other. As long as this aid continues, there will be no negotiations."

The Karen leader last month journeyed to the Burmese Shan State to urge opium warlord Khun Sa to stop drug business in Burma and cooperate with the NDF against Rangoon, which he says, is cooperating in much of the trafficking.

"Khun Sa is willing to stop the drug business," claimed Bo Mya.

"But foreign governments and organizations will have to give necessary aid. We can be a go-between. We have already discussed a six-year eradication plan with Khun Sa."

"The only way to stop the narcotics situation in Burma," added Brang Seng, "is to stop the civil war. Whatever the US government is giving to Rangoon to stop the opium trade is no use."

"Much of the trafficking is done by Burmese army officers and transported by their own vehicles," he charged. "The US will have to acknowledge this sooner or later if it is serious. It will then stop dealing with Ne Win, and stop providing that illegal government with helicopters for suppression, and will have to talk to the minority leaders," he added.

A Shan leader, Hseng-Mong, said: "Peace negotiations with Rangoon must be held in a neutral country. In the past, negotiations failed because Rangoon could influence the talks, and no outside parties knew about the details. The government has never intended to allow ethnic people to rule themselves."

"We merely want to retain our language, literature and culture, and to survive as a nation," said a Wa leader, Khun Aik.

Kham Kaio, a Pa-o leader who is also a member of the NDF presidium, said: "We too, see no solution after Ne Win under the present circumstances. The root of the civil war is Rangoon's policy of Burmanization."

NDF leaders said the front will soon resume negotiations with the Burma Communist Party to upgrade their military coordination against Rangoon.

They said the NDF is also seeking a trade route between Burma and Laos through the Shan State to facilitate its supply transportation.

The rebels said they believed the front would exchange food supply with arms from Vietnamese forces stationed in western Laos.

The NDF also has made contacts with Laotian and Kampuchean resistance groups, they said.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Defense Minister Receives State's Sigur

BK1901309 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Malaysia maintains the concept of a zone of peace, freedom, and neutrality. Defense Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen said the concept of a nuclear-free zone is also acceptable to all countries. Tengku Rithauddeen, who received Dr Gaston Sigur, added the concept is acceptable to the public because it can maintain security and stability in this region. Tengku Rithauddeen wanted serious efforts to be made to ensure that the ASEAN idea will become a reality. The talks touched on bilateral issues and the situation in Southeast Asia, including in Indochina.

Discusses Military Bases in Region

BK200845 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Malaysia views the concept of ZOPFAN [zone of peace, freedom, and neutrality] and a nuclear-free zone a good way of maintaining peace and stability in Southeast Asia. In stating this, however, Defense Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen added that any pullout of foreign military bases from the region should be studied carefully. This is to ensure that a consequent imbalance of power does not result in the smaller nations in the region being threatened by any superpower after such a pullout.

Tengku Rithauddeen was speaking to newsmen after the U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, Dr Gaston J. Sigur, called on him at his office at the Defense Ministry. He also said there should be a comprehensive and concerted effort of phasing in the ZOPFAN or zone of peace, freedom, and neutrality concept into the policies of the countries concerned.

During the talks with Dr Sigur, bilateral matters such as military cooperation and the current situation in South-east Asia, including Kampuchea were discussed.

Government Condemns KAL Plane Bombing

BK191310 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Malaysia has condemned the destruction of a Korean Airlines plane on 29 November. In a statement, Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar said all countries should condemn such a terrorist act endangering the lives of innocent people and threatening the safety of civil aviation. As many as 115 people were killed in the flight from Baghdad to Seoul.

Deputy Youth Minister Acquitted of Charges

BK211145 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 1110 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 21 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Former Deputy Trade and Industry Minister Kee Yong Wee, 52, pleaded guilty in the Sessions Court here on Thursday to two amended charges of criminal breach of trust [CBT] involving M\$3.3 million (about US\$1.32 million) of a cooperative of which he was the chairman.

Deputy Youth and Sports Minister Wang Choon Wing and two other officials of the cooperative, Komuda, who were originally charged with Kee, were acquitted and discharged after the prosecution dropped the case against them.

Sessions Court Judge Wan Adnan Wan Mohamed deferred to Jan 28 the plea in mitigation and sentencing on Kee, who was head of the youth wing of the Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA), the second partner in Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamed's National Front coalition government.

Kee was appointed to the cabinet in January 1986. He, however, lost in his bid for a parliamentary seat in the April 1986 polls and was dropped from the cabinet in August the same year.

The two officials acquitted with Wang who was treasurer of the cooperative, are Vice-Chairman Yeoh Yuen Chong and Secretary Koh Kim Swee.

Kee was originally charged with Wang and Yeoh with committing CBT of M\$1.9 million (about US\$760,000) and Koh, with abetting them in committing the offence between May 7 and 9, 1986. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Eight Thai Crewmen Fined

Kuala Terengganu, Monday [18 January]—Eight crew members of a Thai fishing boat were today fined a total of [Malaysian] \$320,000 or two months' jail each by the

magistrate's court after they pleaded guilty to trawling in Malaysia's exclusive economic zone (EEZ). They did not pay the fines. Ten other crew members of the fishing boat, aged 14 to 15, were released with a warning. KD [Royal Ship] "Sarawak"s commanding officer, Lieutenant Harun Norashid Abdullah, ordered his men to board the trawler after intercepting it about 88 nautical miles from the Kuala Terengganu coast at 5.05 am. [date not given]. [Excerpts] *[Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 19 Jan 88 p 7 BK]*

Singapore

Government Condemns Bombing of KAL Plane

BK201429 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] The Singapore Government has condemned the terrorist bombing and destruction by North Korea of a South Korean airliner last year. All 115 people on board were killed. The Foreign Ministry said the killing of innocent civilians is an outrage against international law and civilized behavior.

Cambodia

Communique on Hun Sen's Activities Abroad

BK201511 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 20 Jan 88

[“Communique on activities of PRK Council of Ministers Chairman Hun Sen Abroad”; date not given]

[Text] On his way to Paris for a second meeting with Samdech Sihanouk, Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the PRK, and his delegation stopped over in New Delhi for a 2-day visit. During their stay in New Delhi, Comrade Hun Sen and his delegation were most cordially and warmly received by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

The two parties exchanged views in a sincere and cordial atmosphere permeated with mutual understanding and friendship. They discussed the situation in their respective countries, the regional and international situation, and particularly the situation related to the quest for a political solution to the Cambodian problem.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi showed a great interest in the meeting between Comrade Council of Ministers Chairman Hun Sen and Samdech Sihanouk in their search for a political solution to the Cambodian problem.

On the evening of 17 January 1988, Comrade Council of Ministers Chairman Hun Sen and his delegation arrived in Paris via Moscow. Comrade Hun Sen was most warmly welcomed at the Paris airport by ambassadors of Vietnam, Laos, and Cuba, the charge d'affaires of Mongolia, the representatives of the Soviet Embassy, and a large crowd of Cambodian residents in Paris.

On 18 January, 1988, Comrade Council of Ministers Hun Sen and his delegation had a working session with [name indistinct], envoy attached to the French President's Office, and Natwar Singh, Indian minister of state for foreign affairs.

On 20 January at 4 o'clock Phnom Penh time, Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and his party met with Samdech Sihanouk for a second time as scheduled at Saint-Germain-en-Laye.

Second Round of Hun Sen-Sihanouk Talks Open
BK211220 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1147 GMT
21 Jan 88

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 21—The second round of the talks between Chairman Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Sihanouk took place on January 20 at Saint Germain-en-Laye, about 30 km from Paris, reports VNA.

The talks dealt essentially with the question of the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea, the elimination of the possibility of the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime in Kampuchea, the cessation of foreign interference against the Kampuchean people, the creation of a coalition government, and the future political regime of Kampuchea.

Taking part in the talks on the side of Chairman Hun Sen were Dit Munti, vice minister for foreign affairs, and Cham Prasit, vice minister of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. On the side of Prince Sihanouk were Princess Monique and his son Rannarit.

AFP Report on Meeting

AU211229 Paris AFP in English 1142 GMT
21 Jan 88

[Francis Markus Report]

[Text] Saint-Germain-en-Laye, France, Jan 21 (AFP)—Former Cambodian ruler Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen pushed on with round two of their peace talks here Wednesday despite stormy scenes before discussions reopened.

Before the two rival Cambodian leaders sat down to their second day of talks, Prince Sihanouk reaffirmed heatedly to reporters that he "won't do anything within the framework of" Mr. Hun Sen's People's Republic of Kampuchea.

The 65-year-old former monarch has demanded that a western-style democratic state be created if he is to agree to return to Phnom Penh.

Prince Sihanouk is also demanding that Vietnam withdraw its estimated 140,000 troops from Cambodia before 1990, the date by which it has pledged to do so.

The talks Wednesday ended with a wide gulf on the key issues—the Vietnamese pullout and the guarantees Phnom Penh wants that the military forces of the Khmer Rouge, Cambodia's bloody former rulers led by Pol Pot be dismantled.

It was to oust the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge that Vietnam's Soviet-supplied tanks rumbled into Cambodia on December 25, 1978.

Reports from Vietnam on Wednesday also appeared to indicate that Hanoi might be taking a firmer position on the prince's demands.

Before Mr. Hun Sen could reply to questions from several journalists admitted to the third floor meeting room in an ivy-clad hotel here, the prince butted in.

"I play with my cards on the table," Prince Sihanouk declared, charging Mr. Hun Sen and Vietnam, which backs his government of "sometimes playing with their cards under the table."

Mr. Hun Sen appeared angered by the prince's remark, but then the two sides dropped their clash and went into talks.

The Phnom Penh leader, as he arrived for Thursday's talks, expected to last only a few hours, appeared keen to stress that it was too early to assess the talks' progress.

"It is difficult to get results in a few hours", he said referring to a press briefing the previous day by the Prince's son, Prince Norodom Rannarit.

Saying that he was neither "pessimistic nor optimistic but realistic" Prince Rannarit had acknowledged: "We have a long way to go."

Prince Sihanouk told journalists Thursday that the two leaders still planned three more meetings, in North Korea, in France, then in India.

The prince on Wednesday dismissed a troop withdrawal timetable offered by Mr. Hun Sen as "very near" Vietnam's own 1990 date, Prince Rannarit said.

As for Mr. Hun Sen's demand that Khmer Rouge military forces be eliminated, "if Vietnam with its 140,000 troops couldn't do that in nine years, how can I, Sihanouk," eliminate the estimated 30,000 fighters which form the military mainstay of resistance forces, Prince Sihanouk was quoted as saying.

China, a key backer of the Cambodian opposition force against Vietnam, "would never agree to that," he reportedly added.

Prince Sihanouk last May took leave as head of the three-faction resistance Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea to leave him free for talks with Mr. Hun Sen.

Discussion of Vietnamese Withdrawal

*AU201709 Paris AFP in English 1633 GMT
20 Jan 88*

[Excerpt] Paris, Jan 20 (AFP)—Cambodian resistance leader Norodom Sihanouk and Phnom Penh's Premier Hun Sen Wednesday discussed the question of a timetable for a Vietnamese military withdrawal from Cambodia, Mr Hun Sen said.

Mr Hun Sen was speaking to reporters after five and a half hours of talks with Prince Sihanouk at Saint-Germain-en-Laye, a western Paris suburb.

He did not elaborate on the contents of Wednesday's talks—the first day in a second round of meetings between the Cambodian rivals—but said the issue of a withdrawal timetable would be broached again on Thursday. [passage omitted]

Disagreement on Pullout Timetable

*OW210411 Tokyo KYODO in English 0353 GMT
21 Jan 88*

[Text] Paris, Jan. 20 KYODO—Leaders of Kampuchea's two opposing forces disagreed on a timetable for a Vietnamese troop pullout from Kampuchea in their second round of talks opening near here Wednesday for restoring peace to their country.

During the five-and-a-half hour session in Saint Germain-en-Laye, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of a tripartite anti-Vietnamese coalition, called for a complete pullout of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea this year or next, his aides said.

Hun Sen, prime minister of the Hanoi-backed Heng Samrin government in Phnom Penh, repeated the government's pledge to completely withdraw Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea by 1990, they said.

Hun Sen also proposed that Vietnam's complete withdrawal would be possible earlier if the resistance coalition sits down at the negotiating table without the pro-China Khmer Rouge forces of Pol Pot.

Sihanouk disagreed, however, saying China would not accept the exclusion of the Khmer Rouge, the aides said.

Sources close to Hun Sen said Sihanouk also proposed dissolving the Heng Samrin government, establishment of a provisional coalition government and the holding of elections under international supervision.

Hun Sen insisted that general elections should be held by the Heng Samrin government and a coalition excluding the Khmer Rouge before a new government is formed, the sources said.

Sihanouk also reportedly said if Vietnam removes its troops from Kampuchea by 1989 at the latest, his faction may agree to peace with the Heng Samrin government.

Sihanouk and Hun Sen agreed to continue their talks Thursday and Friday toward reaching a political settlement of the nine-year-old conflict.

Hun Sen Views on Khmer Rouge

*AU201838 Paris AFP in English 1829 GMT
20 Jan 88*

[Excerpts] Paris, Jan 20 (AFP)—Cambodia's Vietnamese-backed Premier Hun Sen offered former ruler Prince Norodom Sihanouk here Wednesday a calendar for Vietnam to withdraw from Cambodia but demanded that Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge forces be eliminated, the prince's son said.

But the calendar for Hanoi to pull its estimated 140,000 troops, which Mr Hun Sen presented as the two rival leaders met for the second time, was "very near" to the 1990 withdrawal date promised by Vietnam itself, Prince Norodom Rannarit said.

"If we need to wait until 1990, it's not worth meeting", he quoted his father as saying.

He added that Mr Hun Sen had demanded as a guarantee in return the "elimination as a military force" of the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge. [passage omitted]

Prince Rannarit said after neither the Khmer Rouge nor former Premier Son Sann's nationalist faction agreed to join in the talks between Prince Sihanouk and Mr. Hun Sen, "we are not going to ask the others to participate, it is up to them to decide."

"We take our own responsibility to carry on" with the dialogue effort, he said. [passage omitted]

Hun Sen Greet's USSR's Shevardnadze on Birthday

*BK201415 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1152 GMT
20 Jan 88*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 20—Hun Sen, Politburo member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and minister for foreign affairs, has extended best wishes to his Soviet counterpart, E. Shevardnadze, on his 60th birthday.

In his message, Foreign Minister Hun Sen said: "I strongly believe that the friendship, solidarity and multiform cooperation between the parties and peoples of

our two countries will further consolidate and develop in the interests of peace, stability and socialism in the region and the world at large."

"I wish you the best of health, longevity and many new, ever greater successes in your highly responsible task, especially in implementing the Soviet Union's foreign policy of peace," the message said.

Thai Incursions Reported Week Ending 7 January
BK200753 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0425 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Phnom Penh, 20 Jan (SPK)—During the week ending 7 January, Thai L-19's, F-5's, and A-37's made 11 reconnaissance flights above the Cambodia-Laos-Thai-land border intersection (Preah Vihear Province), Smatdeng, the end of Route 56 (Pursat), the sectors south of O Da, west of Ta Sanh (Battambang), Anlung Veng (Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey), and Phnum Malai (Banteay Meanchey).

Thai artillery fired 500 to 1,000 shells daily on the border areas in the Provinces of Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, Battambang, and Banteay Meanchey.

Entries by Thai boats were recorded off Kaoh Tang and Kaoh Toch islands.

During the same period, Cambodian People's Revolutionary Armed Forces, in close cooperation with volunteers of the Vietnamese Army, put out of action 235 Cambodian reactionaries [words indistinct] including 125 killed on the spot; 52 were captured and 58 others surrendered.

Sihanouk Thanks DK Leaders for Greetings
BK210241 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] On 2 January 1988, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, sent a telegram to Vice President Khieu Samphan and Son Sen, minister attached to the CGDK's Coordinating Committee for National Defense.

In the telegram, the prince and his wife thanked Vice President Khieu Samphan and Mr Son Sen, as well as the leaders, cadres, and combatants of the Democratic Kampuchean side for greeting him on the occasion of the international new year.

The prince and his wife extended warm greetings to Vice President Khieu Samphan, Mr Son Sen, and the leaders, cadres, and combatants of our Democratic Kampuchea, wishing them greater victories in the common struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors on the battlefield.

The prince stressed that the resistance forces under his leadership will fight on until all Vietnamese aggressors are driven out of Cambodia.

9 SRV Positions in Pailin Reported Raided
BK190052 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] On the morning of 14 January our National Army launched a commando raid on nine Vietnamese enemy positions on Phnum Koy, Phnum Sampung, and at Stoeng Phnum Koy, including a regiment position, two battalion positions, two company positions, and four platoon positions.

After a 1-hour battle, we liberated and were in complete control at these nine positions. We killed 42 enemy soldiers, whose bodies were left on the battlefield, and wounded 28 others. Among those killed were two regiment commanders, a battalion commander, and four company or platoon commanders. We destroyed 313 assorted weapons, including a 122-mm gun, 4 80-mm mortars, 7 DK-82 guns, 2 DK-75 guns, 21 B-41's, 12 B-40's, 10 12.7-mm machine guns, 15 RPD's, 25 light machine guns, 214 SK rifles, 2 pistols, a truck for towing the 122-mm gun, 4 105-M field radios, a C-25 field radio, a generator, 2 typewriters, 5 25-meter long ammunition warehouses of which 2 contained artillery shells, over 200 rockets, over 2,400 mines and grenades, 2 rice stockpiles containing 8,600 sacks of rice, a medicine stockpile, a general warehouse, a weapons warehouse with over 700 weapons in it, 2 tanks of gasoline, and a quantity of other war materiel.

We seized 149 assorted weapons, including 3 60-mm mortars, 4 DK-82 guns, 10 B-41's, 9 B-40's, 6 RPD's, 114 AK's, 3 pistols, 160 DK-82 shells, 260 60-mm mortar shells, 270 B-40 rockets, 400 B-41 rockets, a typewriter, 7 telephones, and other equipment.

Furthermore, following our attack, our National Army, in cooperation with compatriot Cambodian soldiers, turned the Vietnamese 122-mm gun and fired 418 shells on Vietnamese positions in Pailin and Chamka Kafe, killing or wounding a number of Vietnamese soldiers, and destroying an ammunition depot, which burned for an hour and a half.

At 0800 of the same day, the Vietnamese enemy dispatched a company backed by two tanks to try to oppose us. However, our National Army ambushed and destroyed one of the tanks, and killed 10 and wounded 15 other Vietnamese soldiers; the remaining soldiers fled.

In sum, on the Pailin battlefield, we killed or wounded 95 Vietnamese enemy soldiers.

VODK Warns Of Vietnamese Talks 'Maneuver'
BK200543 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Station commentary: "Why the Vietnamese Enemy Cannot Set Up a Puppet Administration and a Puppet Army To Serve Its War of Aggression and Race Extermination in Cambodia"]

[Text] According to a Vietnamese document recently published in THE BANGKOK POST, Vietnam will not allowed its puppets in Phnom Penh to set up a government with the resistance forces because these puppets do not possess the manpower and cadres to govern the country and because the puppet army cannot oppose the resistance forces. Vietnam clearly realizes that without it, or if it pulls out its troops from Cambodia, the puppet regime would automatically cease to exist. Therefore, Vietnam will not resolve the Cambodian problem politically. Vietnam's most important aim is to find means to split the Cambodian resistance forces to completely destroy those forces and then annex the entire Cambodian territory.

These words clearly show that Vietnam has exhausted its efforts to set up a puppet administration and a puppet army in Cambodia to serve its war of aggression in Cambodia. For the past 9 years, Vietnam has done its best to set up a puppet administration and a puppet army in Cambodia to fight on behalf of the Vietnamese forces and to transform the issue of Vietnam's aggression in Cambodia into an internal affair so that Vietnam can escape international condemnation. However, the Vietnamese have failed to do so.

Cambodian soldiers, militiamen, and various Cambodian officials forced to serve the Vietnamese have been deserting for home or joining the DK National Army and other Cambodian resistance forces in increasing numbers. Others have cooperated with the resistance forces to fight back against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors by providing food supplies and information, hiding, and leading resistance forces to attack the Vietnamese enemy. Apart from this, they have also cooperated and taken part in destroying the Vietnamese forces and their various warehouses.

Because of these activities, the Vietnamese enemy aggressors no longer trust these people. The Vietnamese have therefore purged and dismantled Cambodian forces and administrative staff they have repeatedly set up. This has caused further disintegration and weakening of the puppet authorities. This is why in the past few years, Vietnam has dispatched increasing numbers of Vietnamese nationals to Cambodia to take over the state authorities in Cambodia and replace all Cambodians.

Therefore, the Vietnamese have not only failed to set up and strengthen a puppet administration to replace Vietnamese forces, but they have been deserted by Cambodian soldiers, militiamen, and officials who have been forced to serve them. These people have cooperated with the Cambodian people and Cambodian resistance forces to fight back vigorously against the Vietnamese. Why have the Vietnamese failed to set up a puppet administration in Cambodia?

1. Vietnam is known in history to have successively annexed Cambodian territory. For example, Kampuchea Kraom, with 60,000 square km and about 4 million

inhabitants, has been completely annexed by Vietnam since the end of the 17th century. And later, Vietnam nibbled at Cambodian territory and islands along the Cambodian-Vietnamese border until openly attacking and occupying Cambodia at the end of 1978. Every Cambodian will painfully remember these lessons forever.

2. During their occupation of Cambodia for the past 9 years, the Vietnamese have implemented a policy of total destruction and massacre, and have committed countless great crimes against the Cambodian nation and people in an attempt to completely annex Cambodian territory.

This is why Cambodians cannot serve the Vietnamese or let them annex the present Cambodian land and will unite against the Vietnamese to safeguard the Cambodian nation and race. This is the will of the entire Cambodian people.

During the past 9 years, the Vietnamese have clearly realized the Cambodian people's will. This is why the Hanoi Vietnamese have refused to resolve the Cambodian problem politically and do not allow their puppets to set up a coalition government with Cambodian resistance forces. This is because Vietnam knows very well that without its aggressor troops, its handful of lackeys in Phnom Penh cannot rule in Cambodia and Vietnam's strategy of annexing Cambodia and setting up the Indochinese federation will fail.

All this clearly shows that Vietnam has no intention of pulling out its troops from Cambodia or resolving the Cambodian problem politically. The maneuver of talks among Cambodians or the one on national reconciliation the Vietnamese have ordered their lackeys in Phnom Penh to currently implement are only maneuvers to dupe world opinion and split the Cambodian resistance forces for Vietnam to destroy, as confirmed in the above Vietnamese statement.

Army Command Warns of 'Deceitful' Moves
BK190352 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Jan 88

["Clarification by the DK National Army Supreme Command's Operations Department" —dated 15 January]

[Text] The Hanoi Vietnamese are again lying to people in broad daylight, saying that they are going to withdraw their aggressor forces. On the Vietnamese enemy's statement on withdrawing its aggressor forces:

The Vietnamese have said this many times in an effort to draw people's attention away from their very deceitful maneuvers. Over the past few years, the Vietnamese have again and again made this statement on pulling their forces out of Cambodia by this or that many tens of thousands of troops. At other times, they have staged the

troop pullout and made a lot of noise to get people to see their farces. These Vietnamese plays are only for kids and ignorant children. In truth, the following happened in these Vietnamese farces.

1. The Vietnamese gathered troops from this or that area for a parade through Phnom Penh so their accomplices could spread the propaganda to fool people, even though the latter do not believe it. This is because the Vietnamese and their accomplices believe that if they repeat their lies long enough and often enough, people will get used to them and will believe some of them.

2. After the parade ended, having been filmed and photographed, the convoy turned back onto Routes 6 and 4 to western Cambodia.

3. The Vietnamese continue to send fresh troops to commit aggression in Cambodia. These reinforcements are coming from Vietnam's 5th Army Region by way of Route 19 to Stung Treng; from Vietnam's 7th Army Region by way of Route 7 to Kratie; along Route 7 to Memot, Dambe, Tbong Khmum, Kroch Chhma, Kanhchriech, and Kamchay Mea; and along the Mekong river, disembarking in Phnom Penh to be dispatched successively to Pursat, Battambang, and so on. The Vietnamese never tell anyone about the return of these old troops or the arrival of new troops, tanks, artillery pieces, and light weapons. They never ask any reporters to see or photograph this.

However, the Cambodian people and patriotic Cambodian forces have witnessed this and have been fighting these troops constantly.

4. The Cambodian people and patriotic Cambodian forces certainly will not be duped by these very tricky Vietnamese enemy aggressors because they are right on the battlefield and have seen Vietnamese reinforcements constantly flowing in to continue Vietnam's war of aggression and occupation in Cambodia, and to continue sowing all kinds of great destruction on the Cambodian people everyday without respite. The Cambodian people and patriotic forces have been fiercely fighting the Vietnamese enemy every hour of every day. They are not stupid and will not be duped by deceitful Vietnamese statements on pulling their troops out of Cambodia.

The real situation testifies to this truth. As for the accomplices who continue to spread propaganda for the Vietnamese on their troop withdrawal, only when they report from battlefields in Cambodia, from any of them, can people pass judgment on these reports.

5. As usual, deceitful propaganda by the Vietnamese and their accomplices tends to occur when they need to serve specific political or diplomatic offensives. This is why it was done recently:

1) The Vietnamese in Beijing released deceitful statements that Vietnam would pull its forces out of Cambodia at the end of 1988.

2) This coincides with the departure of Vietnam's puppet, Hun Sen, for India and abroad.

3) This coincides with the Soviet Union's release of deceitful statements on a Soviet troop pullout in 1988 if this or that Soviet condition can be met.

4) This coincides with the Vietnamese enemy's document on maneuvers, No 17/SRMC, dated 18 June 1987.

The Cambodian people, patriotic Cambodian forces, and peace- and justice-loving people and countries the world over are well aware of the nature of Vietnam, the Soviet Union, and their out-and-out lackeys due to bitter and countless Vietnamese-Soviet lessons on the one hand, and on the other, they have grasped well and are very aware of the firm and unchanging global and regional strategies of the Soviet Union and Vietnam.

In particular, the Cambodian people and patriotic forces, who have been fighting hundreds of thousands of Hanoi Vietnamese troops everyday, are realists on the battlefield. They will not easily believe or be fooled by the flick of the Vietnamese enemy's tongue. This is why our people and army have these words: On the battlefield, a small neglect will cost the cooking pot and through a small neglect there will be no rice seeds left. This is because the Vietnamese and we are fighting one another closely every hour everywhere.

Everyone in the world clearly realizes that whether the Soviet Union pulls its forces out of Afghanistan or not and whether Vietnam pulls its forces out of Cambodia or not, depends on two factors and whether they can or cannot stand the following: —1 Pressure on the military battlefield; —2 Diplomatic and other pressures from international forces. The history of the First and Second World Wars and regional wars have clearly borne out this truth.

The Operations Department of the DK National Army Supreme Command firmly believes through concrete experiences that our entire people and our entire army will not have any illusions about the incessant lies and deceptions of the Vietnamese enemy and will continue to unite and fight against the Vietnamese enemy more actively in accordance with the lofty duty assigned by the nation and people.

[Signed] The Operations Department of the DK National Army Supreme Command

[Dated] 15 January 1988

'National Army' Founding Anniversary Marked
BK170418 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic
Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Station editorial: "Marking the 20th Founding Anniversary of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea With Energetic Spirit and Confidence in the Final Victory Over the Vietnamese Enemy Aggressors and Race Exterminators"]

[Text] Today, 17 January 1988, is the 20th founding anniversary of our National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK].

Cadres and combatants of the NADK on all battlefields throughout the country are solemnly celebrating their founding anniversary with energetic spirit and confidence in the final victory over the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and race exterminators.

Our NADK is the army which was born of the Cambodian people and has grown and developed amid the burning flames of successive wars against the enemies of our Cambodian nation and people.

This army is very patriotic, brave, and patient, and truly loves the people. It has experienced all kinds of complex obstacles and difficulties and fought valiantly against the enemies, thus enabling the Cambodian nation and race to survive until now.

At the end of 1978, the Hanoi authorities, with the Soviet international expansionists' full support and participation, sent more than 250,000 able-bodied forces supported with tanks and modern weapons to invade our Cambodia in a most cruel and barbarous manner in an attempt to annex Cambodia within a single stroke according to their blitzkrieg strategy. But since that time, despite all kinds of shortages and complex situations, our heroic NADK soldiers, who love the people and nation more than their own lives, jointly with our Cambodian people, have fought valiantly and fiercely with lofty spirit of mastery against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and totally smashed the blitzkrieg strategy of the Vietnamese and Soviet enemies, thus successfully defending the Cambodian nation, territory, and race until today.

Following the total failure of their blitzkrieg strategy, the Vietnamese-Soviet enemies sent more troops and war materiel to Cambodia and kept launching large- and small-scale operations in an attempt to smash and disperse the NADK and realize their aggression in Cambodia. However, with the support and assistance of friends near and far and all peace- and justice-loving forces throughout the world, the NADK, together with the Cambodian people and other Cambodian patriotic forces, had successively frustrated the large- and small-scale operations of the Vietnamese enemies and won one victory after another, thus enabling the Cambodian people's struggle to develop from the most difficult

situation in 1979 to a more favorable one. This struggle has kept advancing with each passing year. This development has made all of us become confident that we will certainly be able to win final victory over the Vietnamese enemies, that is we will soon be able to totally liberate our beloved fatherland from the Vietnamese enemies.

Thanks to this lofty heroism of our NADK and the brilliant achievements scored by our National Army during the past 9 years, our Cambodian people at home and abroad love and respect our National Army even more profoundly and have greater confidence in our National Army. They have thus joined with our National Army in the struggle against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors even more enthusiastically.

Meanwhile, our friends and the forces in the world which support our just struggle against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors, having become well aware of the fact that our National Army is a very patriotic army which dares share life and death with its own nation and people, have jointly supported our struggle even more firmly and actively. As for our enemies, Vietnam and the Soviet Union, they have become well aware that they will never be able to annex Cambodia through the use of brute force.

In their secret document publicized recently by the BANGKOK POST, the Vietnamese enemy aggressors admitted that they could not smash our NADK and that they lacked the capability to win the war in Cambodia through military means. This is tantamount to admitting that they have reached a total impasse on the Cambodian battlefield, that is they are on the brink of total defeat.

Therefore, since its birth, particularly during the past 9 years, our NADK has scored many brilliant feats in the defense of our Cambodian nation and race, thus causing its prestige to rise highly both at home and in the international arena. Meanwhile, the Vietnamese aggressor forces—claimed by the Hanoi authorities to be the third most powerful army in the world—which used to clamor about their victory in 1979 have been plunged into a hopeless situation and become more deeply bogged down in the quagmire of the Cambodian battlefield. They are heading toward a final defeat.

Our NADK pledges to further uphold this glorious combat banner and jointly with our people throughout the country, the fraternal Cambodian soldiers and administrators who have been forced to serve the Vietnamese enemy, and the other patriotic forces of the CGDK, fight more vigorously against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors according to our seven-point and five-point combat tactics, particularly our attack tactics against villages to cause more serious difficulties to the Vietnamese enemy aggressors to the point that they are compelled to solve the Cambodian problem politically in

accordance with our 8-point peace proposal by withdrawing their aggressor troops totally and unconditionally from Cambodia, thus allowing the Cambodian people to decide their own destiny according to the nine United Nations resolutions.

On this occasion, we wish the NADK cadres and combatants on all battlefields good health, powerful strength, and wisdom so that they can effectively carry on the struggle against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors in this 10th dry season and thereafter and win greater victories successively until our beloved fatherland is totally liberated.

We also wish all the disabled and wounded cadres and combatants of our National Army a quick recovery in order to carry on their noble duties.

Also on this occasion, we sincerely and sadly pay homage to the souls of our cadres, combatants, and people who sacrificed their prosperous lives for the cause of our nation and race. May your souls rest in peace forever. We pledge to follow your example by continuing to fight against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors until our common ideal to totally liberate our fatherland is realized.

Long live the glorious, heroic National Army of Democratic Kampuchea.

Indonesia

Suharto Meets With State Department's Sigur
BK210723 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian
0600 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] President Suharto this morning at Bina Graha received President Reagan's special envoy, Dr Gaston Sigur, who is concurrently the Assistant State Secretary for Asia Pacific Affairs. Radio Indonesia reporter Joko Saksono reports the following from Bina Graha Palace, Jakarta.

[Begin recording] President Suharto this morning at Bina Graha received Dr Gaston Sigur, President Reagan's special envoy and concurrently assistant secretary of state for Asia and Pacific affairs. After meeting with President Suharto, Dr Gaston Sigur told reporters he had conveyed an official letter from President Reagan, and also discussed various international issues with the national leader. Concerning the United States' desire to see ASEAN a nuclear-free zone, Dr Gaston Sigur said that the United States is currently involved in holding direct talks with the Soviet Union concerning nuclear arms reduction which will be a major contribution toward global peace. The United States will definitely support ASEAN's efforts toward the resolution of the Kampuchea problem, and its attitude has been such for a long time and will continue to remain so. [end recording]

PNG Prime Minister Ends 4-Day Visit
BK211319 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian
1200 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Papua New Guinea [PNG] Prime Minister Paias Wingti this afternoon left for home via Singapore after a 4-day official visit to Indonesia.

Radio Republic of Indonesia correspondent Hendro Martono reports on Paias Wingti's news conference at the Sukarno-Hatta International Airport:

[Begin Hendro recording] At the news conference this afternoon, Prime Minister Paias Wingti stressed on the importance of stability and peace in the Southeast Asian and Pacific regions. With stability and peace, the nations in the regions can implement development to improve their standard of living and welfare. Asked about relations between the PNG and Indonesia, Prime Minister Paias Wingti said that the issue of border crossers is now only a minor matter. Other major issues which should be given priority include cultural cooperation between the PNG and Indonesia. In this connection, he expressed happiness that leaders of both countries [words indistinct] to continue to cooperate in achieving good relations and cooperation between Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. [end recording]

PNG Prime Minister Paias Wingti yesterday visited Bali before leaving for home. He was accompanied by Minister of Tourism, Posts, and Telecommunications Akhmad Tahir.

4 Students Arrested for Slandering Government
BK201535 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English
13 Jan 88 p 3

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Four students of the Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) are now under military interrogation in Bandung for allegedly slandering the administration of President Suharto.

The official news agency ANTARA reported from Bandung yesterday [12 January] that according to Lt Col Syarwan Hamid, a military spokesman for the West Java Security Agency (Laksusda), the four students are being given time to take school examinations which were scheduled before their arrest.

Quoting Lt Col Hamid, the news agency said that the students staged a show at the ITB campus on the New Year eve, presenting songs, poems, and speeches.

The spokesman, however, did not specify the names of the four students. He said that their poem, entitled 1988 Is To Study the Dark Clouds Enveloping the Country, was considered discrediting to the head of state and top officials and could instigate unrest.

Laos

Report on Further Thai Shelling of Boten *BK210533 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao* 0430 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Continuing to implement schemes of attacking and annexing Lao territory in Na Banoi canton, Boten District, Sayaboury Province, from 0800 to 0930 on 20 January, the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries mobilized their infantry forces to launch two attacks against a position of our Lao regional armed forces. The attacks were supported by fierce mortar and artillery shelling. Nevertheless, both their attacks were resolutely counter-attacked by our regional armed forces. As a result, they were compelled to retreat.

Later, the Thai reactionary troops again fired a salvo at the position of our regional armed forces with some 60 rounds of 106-mm mortars and 105-mm artillery. At 1000 on the same day, the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries also sent four F-5 jets to fly over violating Lao airspace more than 10 km deep inside Lao territory. Later, from 1530 to 1630, the Thai ultrarightist reactionary troops again fired at various positions of our regional armed forces with 106-mm mortars and 155-mm artillery fiercely. Afterward, they mobilized infantry forces to again launch attacks, very stubbornly, against the position of our regional armed forces in the area where the fighting took place in the morning. However, they were repulsed and again forced to retreat.

Despite our strong counterattack, they refuse to abandon their schemes to annex our Lao territory.

Rallies Held To Protest 'Thai Reactionaries' *BK191214 Vientiane KPL in English* 0900 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Vientiane, January 19 (KPL)—At the various anti-Thai violation of Lao territory rallies held between January 14 through 18, tens of thousands of demonstrators expressed their loathsome hatred for the ultrarightist Thai reactionaries whose hostility against Laos seriously jeopardizes the two people's long standing good relations.

The rallies were held at the Districts of Vangviang and Keo Oudom in Vientiane Province, while others were organized in Sayaboury principal town, in Attapeu, Champassak and Luang Prabang Provinces.

The deployment of several battalions of troops supported by fighter-bombers, artilleries to attack the Lao territory in Taseng Na Banoi, Boten District, Sayaboury Province was strongly denounced. Such adventurist action undertaken by the Thai Third Army Region was a flagrant act of violation of the Lao sovereignty.

The demonstrators, on the other hand, firmly demanded that the ultrarightist reactionaries within the ruling circles in Thailand urgently halt their aggression which gravely damages the relations of good neighbours, in addition, called upon the Thai public to exert pressure on those responsible for the antagonistic policy so as the animosity against Laos will come to an end since the sad result of this adventure has been nothing more than useless loss of lives of ordinary Thai brothers.

The speakers at the rallies asked the Lao people throughout the country to strengthen their unity and raise their sense of vigilance against the enemy.

Mass Rally in Pakse District

BK191330[Editorial Report] Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao at 1200 GMT on 17 January carries a 7-minute "report" with portions recorded on a "mass rally" held in Pakse District, Champassak Province, on the morning of 16 January by over "10,000" people together with a number of representatives of the local administration and mass organizations, such as the provincial Lao Front for National Construction [LFNC] committee, the youth union, the women's union, the trade union, soldiers, policemen, the Unified Buddhist Organization, and the Overseas Vietnamese and Chinese Associations to "denounce the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries in the 3d Army Region for using planes and artillery to bombard" and "troops to nibble at Lao territory in Boten District, Sayaboury Province."

The announcer says that the rally was held at the boat landing of a Pakse district town. At the rally, representatives of various mass organizations took turns delivering speeches in which they expressed their "indignation" and demanded that the "Thai ultrarightist reactionaries" cease their nibbling attacks of Lao territory in Na Banoi canton, Boten District, Sayaboury Province. One of the speakers, Mani Heuangvongsa, chairman of the LFNC Committee of Champassak Province, voiced wholehearted support for the "statement and reasonable proposal of the LPDR Foreign Affairs Ministry". He demanded that the "Thai ultrarightist reactionaries, especially those in the 3d Army Region, immediately cease their nibbling attacks against Laos without any preconditions" and that the "Thai Government employ urgent and effective measures to put an end to the bloodshed spilled by the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries in the 3d Army Region." He also called on all progressive and justice-loving Thai people to carry out "the struggle" to compel the "Thai ultrarightist reactionary rulers" to cease their hostile acts against the LPDR and hold negotiations with Laos in order to normalize Lao-Thai relations. Others who spoke were the senior Buddhist monk Sisai, Bounmi Bounsiphan, Mrs Thongdam Vannalatsami, and Bounthan Pasathan, respectively representing the provincial Unified Buddhist Association and the provincial youth, women, and trade unions.

The announcer reports that a "resolution" demanding that the "Thai ultrarightist reactionaries cease their nibbling attacks against Lao territory was adopted at the end of the rally."

French Communique on Border Conflict Cited
BK211019 Vientiane KPL in English
0924 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Vientiane, January 21 (KPL)—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France has issued a communique with regards to the Lao-Thai border dispute.

The communique issued on December 31, 1987, reads as follows:

"The French Government deplores the incidents which are occurring at the frontier between Laos and Thailand. It hopes that both countries which are friends of France can maintain their relations of co-operation and good neighbours.

"On its part, France reminds that it has for the disposal of both parties all documents relating to the demarcation line of the border with which they can consult in view to settle the dispute through peaceful manner."

Commentaries on Border Dispute With Thailand
BK181135 Vientiane KPL in English 0911 GMT
18 Jan 88

[Text] Vientiane, January 18 (KPL)—Commenting on the over one-month long border armed conflict which has claimed scores of dead and injured as well as untold misery and fortune, PASASON daily comments today that there is no sign showing that the ultra-rightist Thai reactionaries will stop the bloodbath and tears of Thai people, but indications to the contrary seem to be true.

After Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila's TV appearance with a forged map of the Lao side, from January 15, 1988 the ultra-rightist Thai reactionaries started to build up their forces in the disputed area—deploying the 12th Battalion, sections of the 18th Battalion both attached to the 1st Cavalry Division, 37 companies of rangers, five F-5's says PASASON, adding that special allocation of 50 million baht was recently granted to the 3d Army Region of Thailand to be used in this military campaign. [sentence as received]

In the preparation for a new adventuristic attack against the Lao territory, PASASON points out, Thai military and civilian leaders have been streaming to inspect the border and concocted a fairy tale that the Lao side is building up its force and groudlessly accused Vietnam. Absurdly they keep demanding the Lao troops to pull out of our own territory, adds the paper, all of these are Thai efforts to deny the chance of holding talks in order to

peacefully serve the border conflict and to prolong fighting, that is to say the ultra-rightists reactionaries in Thailand have not given up their plans to annex Lao territory.

PASASON further adds that whereas before the Army Commander-in-Chief of Thailand Gen. Chawalit Yongchaiyut had favoured the settlement of conflicts by peaceful means, now has changed his heart; this is such a great pity. The paper then adds that all indications reveal the true nature of the leading for long their cunning, hypocritical schemes. [sentence as received] Here, the paper adds, no doubt these ambitious figures who do not respond to the wishes of the general public, in the long run, will have to suffer.

The tough lesson from over the past month of fighting shows that the brutal force used against the Lao people who have to stand up and fight for their legal rights, has inflicted heavy losses for the aggressors, therefore, the commentator adds such military adventure of the Thai side should be brought to an end.

The most correct and urgent alternative now, concludes the paper, is to opt out for the path which meets the aspiration of both peoples that is the coming to the negotiation table.

Views on Upcoming Talks

BK191112 Vientiane KPL in English
0910 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Vientiane, January 19 (KPL)—The leading daily PASASON today frontpages a commentary exhorting Thailand to contemplate measures for the forthcoming Lao-Thai talks, and to not resort to further tricks in connection with the bilateral relations.

In its commentary, PASASON recalls the positive factors brought about by the last two rounds of Lao-Thai talks aiming at improving their neighbourliness relations, "despite some remaining fundamental differences, the previous talks have given rise to several factors contributive to the restoration of the time-honoured relations of good neighbours" it points out, attesting to this effect the development of the reciprocal exchange of trade, cultural and religious delegations in line with the ardent aspirations of the two countries' peoples.

"However," PASASON regrettably observes, "such positive development has not a chance to be promoted for long, but it was subject to obstinate behaviours maintained by the ultra-rightist reactionaries within the Thai ruling circles." The daily paper further discloses that the Thai rulers' obstinancy has expedited in a form of armed aggression against Laos in Boten District, northwestern Sayaboury Province.

"Despite Laos having set forth several proposals for peaceful settlement of the dispute, Thailand, particularly its Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila, has come out with

more mischievous acts to elude from Lao-Thai talks," PASASON says, describing the unacceptable pre-conditions drafted in the recent Thai aide-memoire to the Lao Foreign Ministry as an illustration of Thailand's efforts to undermine the possibility of holding bilateral talks. So far, Sitthi Sawetsila's action is being confused by the Thai public due to his negative attitude detrimental to their interests.

Let it be more trickery, it would not always help this Thai foreign policy-maker to deceive the public. Such outdated schemes will merely discredit him like the previous case involving the Thai aggression of the three Lao hamlets in 1984, PASASON points out, adding in conclusion however that there still remains a chance for the Thai foreign minister to withdraw from such behaviours thereupon put into deeds in favour of the Lao-Thai talks on a basis of equal footing, and contributive to the maintenance of bilateral relations.

Sitthi's Attitude Criticized

*BK191215 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
1200 GMT 17 Jan 88*

[Unattributed commentary: "There Are Only No's in Sitthi Sawetsila's Policy"]

[Text] Dear listeners: In the past as well as at present, the justice- and peace-loving Thai people of all strata, especially Thai intelligentsia, have always closely followed and appreciated the world and regional developments which are regarded as important issues by all the countries of the world. But Sitthi Sawetsila, who currently controls the foreign policy of Thailand, still maintains a conservative line of thinking and refuses to open his eyes to the outside world. An article by a prominent Thai politician in MATICHON on 11 December 1987 strongly criticized the conservative stand of Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila.

Commenting on this issue, our radio reporter said: MATICHON on 11 December carried an article by a senior Thai politician born in Khon Kaen Province criticizing the views held by Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila. Before analyzing the policy pursued and deeds committed by Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila, the writer quoted the seven-point policy implemented by the Thai Government as follows: It will promote good relations and develop economic and trade relations with every country. It will also promote reciprocal trade with all countries. Nevertheless, Sitthi Sawetsila who is in charge of implementing the foreign policy of Thailand has not pursued these. This is because he is not a career diplomat but an aviation engineer. That is why his stand and deeds clearly show that he is a conservative. This is a very dangerous thing indeed. The world has changed but Sitthi Sawetsila remains the same. With regard to the incident in the three Lao villages, he discussed it only after Thai troops had been sent to occupy them. Instead of having full control of Thailand's National Security Council as foreign minister, he informed the public of

the incident only after it had already occurred. Such a foreign minister should quit! In brief, a foreign minister who pursues a conservative line of thinking is very dangerous. His policy is only to say no and no again.

The article went on to say: Diplomatic etiquette of Sitthi Sawetsila is to turn his back on others and to pit people against one another. All of his statements are extremely abrasive. Concerning Cambodia, he rejected a request made by members of the house to visit Vietnam. In addition, the article also raised many concerns about the deeds committed by Sitthi Sawetsila. Let us analyze whether the article by this prominent Thai politician published in MATICHON is correct or not; or whether it has merely accused Sitthi Sawetsila of doing something he has not done.

What the article says is true. It is not an accusation. Had the article been written after 15 December 1987, it would have touched on the incident in Lao territory at Na Banoi canton, Boten District, Sayaboury Province, saying that Sitthi Sawetsila told the public only after Thai troops had been sent into that area.

If one recalls the past deeds committed by Sitthi Sawetsila against Laos, one will come to the conclusion that his deeds are not very much different from what the article has pointed out. Several years ago, the prohibition to export more than 200 categories of so-called strategic goods to Laos was imposed at the initiative of this very person. This is also true with the opening or closing of various border points with Laos. Whenever he is dissatisfied with Laos, he will order that the border be unilaterally closed. More seriously still, he now pays lip service to the problems in Thai-Lao relations by repeatedly agreeing to hold negotiations to settle them while, in fact, he always tries to set many preconditions to avoid holding talks. He still hopes to gain a better position on the battlefield.

After the incident along the border area south of Boten District, Sayaboury Province, the Lao side proposed to hold urgent negotiations with the Thai side. However, Sitthi Sawetsila was indifferent to that proposal. Moreover, he even demanded that the Lao regional forces be withdrawn from Laos' own territory as a precondition to the talks. If negotiations fail to materialize in the near future, fighting will escalate, resulting in the loss of more lives and properties of both Lao and Thai peoples and the deterioration of Lao-Thai relations. Who else must be held responsible for this development other than Sitthi Sawetsila, who is at present in charge of directing the foreign policy of Thailand?

The current world trend is to reduce tension, to peacefully coexist with one another, and to hold negotiations to settle any world and regional conflicts. But Sitthi Sawetsila still maintains his conservative attitude. He must change his attitude and catch up with all international developments. But at present, he still ignores the loss in lives of Thai youths whom he sent to die for

nothing by invading and committing aggression against a neighboring country. It is time that Sitthi Sawetsila changes his conservative attitude and begins negotiating to settle problems in Thai-Lao relations with sincerity and without any preconditions, otherwise he will be held solely responsible for any serious consequences arising from his action.

Thailand Urged To End Bloodshed
*BK201125 Vientiane KPL in English 0912 GMT
20 Jan 88*

["Blood Incurred Upon Thai People Should Be Stopped"—KPL headline]

[Text] Vientiane, January 20 (KPL)—PASASON, organ of the LPRP CC, today comments that it is high time for the Thai ruling circles to stop the bloodshed incurred upon Thai troops who are engaged in aggression against Laos in order to stop the misery of their compatriots.

PASASON points out in connection with the Thai aggression against the Lao territory in Boten District, Sayaboury Province, that the common Thai soldiers are the most to suffer since the aggression was perpetrated by the Thai 3d Army Region since late last year. Isn't it, therefore, sufficient for the Thai ruling circles to realize that time has come to end the bloodbath inflicted upon their troops, it observes, adding that further intensification of armed conflict will merely maximize the loss of lives of the Thai people's sons?

It is understandable that the Thai ultra-rightist reactionary circles have become subject of severe blame for having been responsible for barbaric acts only to serve for their personal interests, the paper says.

Despite all indications supporting the Lao claim over the disputed area in accordance with the 1907 France-Siamese Treaty, the Thai Army commander-in-chief Chawalit Yongchaiyut is still holding that even an inch of the area is to be protected, PASASON disclosed, describing such irritating statement as stubborn maintenance of the Thai hostile attitude toward Laos. In this connection, ever more Thai people have expressed their different opinion in favor of having peace with the Lao people who share blood relations with them.

It is a right movement for the senior Thai officers, especially Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, to refrain from such aggression and to solve the bilateral relations by talks in order to heal the misery of the Thai people and to save the relations between Lao and Thai peoples, PASASON concludes.

Editorial Marks LPA 39th Anniversary
*BK201010 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 20 Jan 88*

[PASASON 20 January Editorial: "Enhance the Revolutionary Traditions and Fulfill All Tasks of Our Army"]

[Text] Today, 20 January 1988, marks the 39th founding anniversary of the LPA—the gallant army of the heroic Lao people. On this historic day, our entire party and people would like to express our profound affection, gratitude, and faith toward all cadres and combatants of the Armed Forces, especially those on the frontline in Boten District, Sayaboury Province, who are resolutely and gallantly resisting and punishing the ultrarightist reactionary soldiers from the 3d Army Region of Thailand. All of us in the rear are brimming with the spirit of unity and oneness with the frontline compatriots and are turning all of our efforts toward actively contributing to securely defending our sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Looking back at the development and growth of our LPA since its inception, we can see that the LPA has developed from a small and weak armed propaganda unit with only a few men into a powerful army capable of fulfilling the great tasks of our nation by completely liberating our country from the yoke of occupation by imperialists. At present, it is shouldering new heavy tasks of the revolution in a new period, that is, defending the country and contributing to building it into a socialist state.

Under the talented and capable leadership of the LPRP, maintaining its boundless faith in the party, the revolutionary cause, the nation, and the people of all tribes, throughout the past 39 years the LPA has fought resolutely and gallantly; it has dared to attack and dared to defeat all enemies. It has maintained a sense of perseverance and consistency to overcome all obstacles and difficulties; has relied on itself and built its own strength; has maintained a close link with and mobilized and assisted the people; has developed close solidarity with the armed forces of the socialist countries, such as fraternal Vietnam and Cambodia; and has maintained a strict discipline with a sense of alertness toward democracy while its cadres and combatants love and assist one another and join hands with one another to fulfill all duties. This fine tradition has become one of the important factors ensuring victories for our armed forces.

The LPA always pursues the party's military line by firmly grasping the content of the revolution and the scientific nature of Marxism-Leninism and applying them to the realities in our country. It has never ceased to enhance and strengthen national defense and public security maintenance work among the masses and to consolidate and strengthen its special militant alliance with the VPA and the KPRAF and its close solidarity with the Soviet Army and the armies of the fraternal socialist countries. That is why since the liberation of our country and the beginning of the socialist transformation

and construction, as the main executor of national defense and public security, the LPA has managed to shoulder this heavy duty and to fulfill it with a sense of pride.

In addition, the LPA has also participated in economic construction to produce consumer products and goods for society and to meet its own needs.

In brief, over the past 39 years of building and fighting under extremely difficult and complex conditions, our army has rapidly grown up and become stronger and capable of triumphantly fulfilling its historic obligations. It has become a reliable force for our party, the revolution, and the entire Lao people. Nevertheless, the duty of our army in the immediate future still remains heavy because the world and regional situations continue to change in a complicated manner. The imperialists and reactionary forces remain obdurate and have refused to abandon their dark and adventurous policy of opposing the revolutions in the three Indochinese countries. Hostile acts against the LPDR have been frequently committed by these elements, especially along the Lao-Thai border. A most serious incident which has lasted for more than 1 month so far occurred when armed forces from the 3d Army Region in Thailand were deployed to nibble at and occupy the territory of the LPDR in Na Bonoi canton, Boten District, Sayaboury Province.

Therefore, our army must unite with the entire party and people to further enhance the tradition of heroism and to uphold a sense of vigilance in order to ensure combat preparedness and victories for itself in fighting under all circumstances. Especially, it must resolutely resist and repulse all acts of aggression to seize Lao territory by the Thai ultrarightist reactionary soldiers, inflicting more painful defeats on them if they still remain obdurate in carrying out such acts. This is because it is the noble obligation and honor of our army to defend our independence and territorial integrity.

Armed Forces Urged To Fight

*BK210434 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0430 GMT 19 Jan 88*

[Unattributed "article": "Strive To Further Enhance Glorious LPA Traditions And Resolutely Smash the Aggressive Schemes of Enemies"]

[Text] 20 January 1988 marks the 39th founding anniversary of our LPA. Over the past 39 years of building and victorious fighting under the LPRP's banner, our army has scored numerous precious, heroic deeds—deeds that have become our army's fine traditions, which have been consolidated, promoted, and expanded to meet a new, better quality.

The complete contents of the traditions are to be unlim- itedly loyal to the party, the revolutionary cause, the nation, and the people of various tribes; to be deter- mined to fight heroically to defeat all enemies; to main- tain a firm and undaunted spirit to overcome all obsta- cles and difficulties; to be self-reliant and to build the Army's own strength; to closely associate with the peo- ple, persuading and helping the people fulfill tasks; to maintain close solidarity with various armed forces of socialist countries, for example with those fraternal Armed Forces of Vietnam and Cambodia; and to strictly implement regulations and discipline with an awareness and a thorough democratic manner. The cadres and combatants must also love and help one another and together fulfill all tasks. These fine traditions have become a significant factor among the factors guarant- eeing victories for our various armed forces.

At present, the fighting of our various armed forces to defend territory in Boten District is continuing in a fierce and furious manner. In the past month alone, the enemy has suffered a great loss of forces. But, with its reactionary true nature, the ultrarightist group that has followed the path of pan-Thaism with the hope of swallowing up Lao territory little by little has continued to use forces to launch attacks against the positions of our armed forces in the district. The fighting may be complicated, fierce, and prolonged and we may have to face more difficulties and troubles and to suffer various sacrifices. But, all this is not unusual for our revolution- ary combatants.

Throughout the 30-year period of national liberation struggle and the past 12 years of the struggle for national defense and construction, we have learned lessons through our concrete experiences. We know the enemies maintain superior strength in manpower and weapons. However, they also have unsettled weak points. First of all, they belong to an unjust side—they are aggressors. They do not have the support of the Thai people from all strata. The reactionary true nature of the ultrarightist group has been exposed with each passing day. They have been daily isolated before public opinion both at home and abroad. Noteworthy is the fact that the Thai people of Lao blood in the ranks of the Thai Armed Forces themselves do not want to fight and kill their brothers of the same blood and race. These people will do all they can to contribute to ignominiously defeating the Thai ultrarightist group. Deep in their hearts they are pleased to see that the Lao people—whose families are from the same race as theirs—have become stronger with each passing day.

For our various armed forces, we regard the actual test in the battlefields as the gauge measuring the bravery, resolute spirit, and competence of each officer and man. Through this test, we can build even more outstanding units or individuals and more emulation combatants to serve the fine traditions of our army.

Therefore, despite the fact that the present border fighting will continue to take place fiercely, our cadres and combatants are prepared to strive to overcome it and consider it a lofty obligation and honor and consider the victory achieved in the fighting as a precious gift for the celebration on the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the LPA. It has been proven through history that the aggressors, no matter how strong they are, when faced with the strong power of opposition and resistance from people with their traditional armed forces as the key forces, will certainly be ignominiously defeated in the end.

Article Details Life in 'Laotian Gulag'

BK170305 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
17 Jan 88 p 6

[Article by Alan Dawson, under the rubric "Political Prisons:" "The Laotian Gulag"; boldface portions as published]

[Text] The day begins at sunrise for the thousands of prisoners of the remote, secretive political Gulag of northeastern Laos.

The political prisoners struggle from atop the bamboo branches which serve as their beds. Outside, the third guard shift is going off its overnight duty and heading for breakfast. For the prisoners, however, the first of their two daily meals is still hours away.

They have lain the night in the cold mountain air of Houa Phan province, often shivering, for political prisoners are not issued blankets by their warders.

As the men and women rise, they know almost exactly what the day will bring: eight hours of hard labour broken by two meals. Each meal will be a single, 200-gramme cup of the cooked rations known as "rat rice"—and a pinch of salt.

Especially in the compound called Camp 07, they also know what tomorrow will bring. It will bring death, as inevitably as it has brought death to scores of their fellow prisoners, including the last king, queen and crown prince of Laos.

Two men who escaped from Camp 07 have told many of the secrets of the Laotian Gulag in lengthy, separate interviews. Although the Vietiane government has refused comment, their stories agree with each other, and dovetail with other sketchy reports released by outside human-rights groups, such as Amnesty International [AI].

The reports document a harsh existence in the string of political prisons hidden near the border of Vietnam and the famous Dien Bien Phu battlefield. "Starvation" [sub-head]

Most inmates, like the royal family, can expect to die of what the escapees call "starvation." Technically, medically, the description is wrong.

The average death in the Laotian Gulag comes from malnutrition, pushed along by malaria, influenza or a common cold. All of these are killers in the Houaphan camps.

Brutality and executions have brought death. But more dangerous to the majority of prisoners are poor food, lack of medical care and the morale-sapping boredom of day-to-day life.

All life is governed by The 17 Rules, the prison regulations which are the only written words allowed in the Laotian Gulag. The Laotian government claims it runs "reeducation camps," but The 17 Rules expressly forbid all books and political discussion.

The prisoners know it is Monday and Saturday night in their camp, because they must study and recite The 17 Rules on those two night.

They also know when it is Sunday, or one of the three national holidays a year. each of those 55 days, they are locked into their 50-man huts so that all but a skeleton staff of patrolling guards may have a day off.

"This is one of the punishments for us," explains one of the two escapees who have details of the camps for this story. "Our only break from boredom is to go outside the camp walls to work."

The two sources could hardly be more different, sharing only the common 11 years as political prisoners. One is a former student, jailed as a "CIA collaborator" because he tore up pictures of Marx and Lenin in front of a Pathet Lao official. The other is a battle-hardened former police officer who fought the communists on the battlefield. The charge against him was "anti-revolutionary activities."

They and other sources confirmed that the Houaphan political prisons were set up by mid-1974, some 18 months before the communists took power on December 2, 1975. After the takeover, of course, the prisons began to fill up.

The first, called Camp 01, was typical of all those to follow. It was built along the lines of the classic Stalag camp seen in so many World War II movies. In place of barbed wire, the communists fashioned a fence of sharpened, interwoven bamboo strips. The entire camp was fenced, and prisoners lived within an interior compound surrounded by a second fence.

In the inner compound of the camps are huts, constructed from local materials. They are built to house 50 persons apiece, and most of them have that number of inmates.

Each hut has a prisoner-in-charge. It is his duty to keep track of all inmates in the hut, to report anyone missing and to tell the guards when someone dies.

Death, when it occurs, is treated as unceremoniously as life by the prison authorities.

Within minutes of any death, a team of prisoners—usually four—is despatched to the prison graveyard to dig a hole for the body. Immediately, the dead prisoner is placed in the hole and it is filled in.

Burial is the custom of the upland Lao in Houaphan.

It goes without saying, almost, that there is no religious ceremony for the dead. Indeed, religion is considered so unimportant that it is not even covered by The 17 Rules. It is simply banned.

According to the two escapees, there are two old monks in Sam Neua town, the capital of Houaphan province. There is no wat or pagoda.

The prison graveyard is commonly at the edge of the outer compound of the "Stalag." There are no grave markers or other man-made signs to remember the dead.

When the king and crown prince of Laos died, they were buried beneath a kok leuang [precedent two words in Lao], or yellow tree. But apart from this apparent mini-honour to the royals, there was no other concession. They, and the queen, all lie in unmarked graves.

A common kitchen for prisoners is located along the inner fence of the compound. Here, at mid-morning and mid-afternoon, a team of about five cooks boiled up the 200 grammes of rice allotted to each prisoner.

On a good day, they add leaves and grass foraged by prisoners who have been on work details outside the camp, tilling fields or working on road gangs.

Several times a year, prisoners manage to trap one of the mole-like animals that burrow around the compound. These small animals, which themselves eat the dead from the graveyard, are skinned and cooked over the open fire by the cooks.

"They are cut up and passed out to all," said the ex-student. "We eat them with gusto. It is the only meat we ever got in 11 years in Houa Phan."

Even the allotted rice itself is a form of punishment for political prisoners.

Guards go to great lengths in describing it to new arrivals from detention camps and "people's courts."

"Rat Rice" [Subhead]

"They call it "rat rice," said the former police major. "It is four years old or more, and often has termites and other insects in it. It is called rat rice because even in Houa Phan, which is very poor, the local people will not eat it."

The guards do not eat rat rice, or share many of the "little tortures" of the prisoners.

All guards eat three times a day. Their rice ration is 50 per cent greater than that of the prisoners (a total of 600 grammes a day), and they have vegetables and meat.

But even the prisoners were disgusted when they found out that much of the guards' meat is cat and dog. "Only Vietnamese eat dog and cat," said the former student. "The guards are Lao, but they are the same class as the Vietnamese."

Medical care is another perk reserved for the prison warders alone. The guards have a clinic—built by prison labour—although the actual medical treatment available to the guards is unknown.

Each of the camps in the Laotian Gulag is staffed by a permanent guard detail of about 30.

The guard commander is always a Pathet Lao soldier, usually a captain or major, and his deputy is normally a junior lieutenant or sergeant.

The rest of the guard detail, split into three shifts, described themselves to the two escapees on several occasions as members of the police force. Most wore military-type uniforms and all carried AK-47 rifles. The prisoners said they were unable to differentiate between the military and police.

As in most prisons in most of the world, the guards ranged from "sort of kind to outright brutal," according to the escapees. The brutal ones are the best remembered.

One of the most memorable was the lady known as Loun.

About 16 when she arrived on the Camp 07 guard roster several years ago, Loun was the long-haired, plain-faced daughter of a local communist official in Sam Neua. Most of the guards were young like Loun, and had similar family backgrounds.

Loun dressed sometimes in civilian clothes, but usually wore a man's Pathet Lao army uniform. She was assigned to guard both men and women, and treated them equally.

Equally badly.

Mistreatment [subhead]

She didn't guard prisoners and work details so much as she stalked them. "She never laughed. She was always angry. And she seemed really to enjoy beating the prisoners."

The 17 Rules specifically permit mistreatment of prisoners who break any of them. For a guard like Loun it is always easy to find a prisoner breaching a rule or two.

She—and others—beat prisoners with any stick grabbed up from the ground at a work site.

"Loun was never sorry when she hit prisoners," said the former student. Neither, so far as any prisoner ever knew, was she disciplined for hitting her charges.

Another feared guard was the teen-aged montagnard Onkeo. Like Loun, he appeared to enjoy hitting prisoners.

But Onkeo was also eternally ready to use the AK-47 rifle he carried. As detailed in an earlier story ("In Cold Blood," BANGKOK POST Sunday, December 13), Onkeo gunned down former neutralist politician Toubi Lifoung because Toubi was unable to pull himself from a river bed.

Onkeo also went unpunished for the killing, so far as prisoners could discover.

Neither the young, former student nor the ex-police major could remember an act of kindness by a Gulag guard, although most were not as brutal as Loun and Onkeo.

"The guards lived apart from us, often with their families," said the former police officer. Certainly they did not mix with us, and they were not friendly with us at all.

The 17 Rules, however, also specifically permitted a limited mixing with the local population around the prison camps. This occurred mostly on work details.

The Houa Phan population, numbering only about 100,000 in all, is mostly dirt-poor. They scruff out little more than an existence in fields and forests. Because the Pathet Lao headquarters was in Sam Neua and Houa Phan for so long, the locals are trusted as loyalists by the communists.

Indeed, it appears that the Pathet Lao specifically chose Houa Phan as the site for its Gulag for this reason.

The people of Houa Phan, because of their poverty, seldom travel and thus are unable to carry tales of the Gulag to the outside world. At the same time, escape is almost impossible because of the loyalty of the locals to the communists, and because of the great distance between Sam Neua and the outside world.

But prisoners and locals also shared hardships of the land and climate, and had a certain, guarded empathy.

Barter System [subhead]

Because of this, a barter system grew up between the two groups. It worked this way.

Prisoners scrounged bamboo strips and rice straw. In their non-working hours, the inmates wove hats, which they then traded to the local farmers for rice.

"Some really nimble prisoners could make a hat in five days, or even four," explained the former student, "although the average time was a week. A hat could be traded to the local population for one meal—200 grammes of rice."

A week's labour, then, was traded for a snack.

Food, naturally, is the great preoccupation of the prisoners of the Laotian Gulag.

The Pathet Lao provides just about enough actual food bulk to keep prisoners alive. The 400 grammes of rat rice and teaspoon of salt a day, supplemented with 'green vegetables' like grass and tree leaves, is a tiny step above an actual starvation diet.

Prisoners' discussions among themselves when locked into their huts often centred on food. Hunger was the common complaint; great meals remembered the common subject.

The former student remembers that one reason he actually liked work details was the chance to grab sneak snacks when the guards turned their backs.

"We stuffed banana skins and papaya skins into our mouths as fast as we could sometimes," he said. In the rice fields, prisoners would strip unhusked, unripened paddy from the stalks and eat it uncooked.

But there were also days without food.

The Pathet Lao did not resort to punishment to force prisoners to work. Instead, they made the rule that any able-bodied prisoner who refused to work would get no food. For the sick who were unable to work, rations were cut by 50 percent.

Minor infringements of the camp regulations—The 17 Rules—were punished typically by a period of withholding rations. Usually, this lasted from one to three days.

"With only 200 grammes of food themselves, no one can help" a punished prisoner, the former policeman said.

And lack of food was potentially dangerous.

The former student remembers the three inmates who were gathering firewood along a river bank. They slipped on the rocks into the water. All three drowned because they were too weak to escape the water.

Indeed, the weakness brought on by the barely-adequate rations has caused most of the deaths in the Laotian Gulag. Unable to fight off even the common cold, up to 70 percent of some camps have been wiped out during the past 12 years.

Although everyone dreads the possibility of execution, the poor excuse for prison food has likely killed many more Laotian Gulag prisoners than Pathet Lao bayonets.

Opened-Ended [subhead]

The existence of the Houa Phan political prisons appears open-ended. Many of the inhabitants are serving life sentences, and new prisoners arrive regularly from the people's courts of the plains and panhandled provinces.

As the thousands of prisoners try to sleep in the 50-man huts each night, they know that the dawn will bring another day pretty much like the one they just lived through. Following are "The 17 Rules" which govern the conduct and lives of political prisoners in Laos. They are studied at least twice a week in the camps of northeastern Houaphan province.

1. Anyone arrested by the people and the nation is relieved of all rights of citizenship. Residency records are considered as destroyed. All prisoners must confess any ill conduct of the past eight years, and work to correct inborn traits.

2. Before speaking to a warder or other authority, a prisoner must sit, remove his hat and report. It is prohibited to stare into the face of a warder. Prisoners must refer to a warder as than ("respected elder"), and to each other as chao and khoi ("I" and "you"). The use of respected terms of address such as father, uncle, elder brother, younger brother, etc., is forbidden.

Prisoners must refer to themselves as kha noi (submissive form of the word "I") when speaking to a warder.

3. When moving from place to place, a prisoner must not approach a warder closer than five metres, or wander more than seven metres.

4. Each prisoner must perform manual labour for eight hours a day. Anyone unable to work will have his rice quota cut by half.

5. When entering the gate of the prison, or any room, the prisoner must stand straight and report to the warder in a loud voice.

6. No prisoner must wander more than 15 metres from a guard or he may be shot without warning. Before moving to work, or to answer the call of nature, a prisoner must first sit down, take off his hat and report his intentions.

7. When outside the camp, no prisoner may enter a villager's home. A prisoner may speak to a villager or relative after reporting to his warder, but the guard must be present.

8. All books and study are absolutely forbidden.

9. Able-bodied prisoners who refuse to work are not permitted to eat.

10. All forms of social activity are forbidden. Gambling is absolutely forbidden.

11. Dissemination of news from the outside world is forbidden. It is also forbidden to discuss activities of the prison with persons from outside.

12. Criticism of friendly countries which may be suffering unrest is forbidden.

13. Materials made of steel such as knives, axes, hoes and rods must not be taken inside the prison. All weapons are strictly prohibited.

14. The chief of each prison room must report the number of inmates to the warder at 05:00 and 20:00 hours daily. The room chief must report the escape or death of any prisoner immediately.

15. Supplies sent by relatives to inmates must be checked by a warder before they are permitted in the prison.

16. Sale, purchase and barter of supplies with local villagers is forbidden.

17. Prisoners obeying these rules completely may be considered for a partial remission of their sentence. The breaking of these rules will be cause for an additional term of sentence.

The Pathet Lao had not even seized final power in Laos when they sentenced six "traitors" to death.

Because the September 4, 1975, trials were held in absentia, they attracted little attention. The fact that the six former generals had already escaped Laos, said many, proved the fact of "the gentle revolution" of Laos.

But many rightists and neutralists did not flee their country before the Pathet Laos forced the abdication of King Savang Vatthana on December 2, 1975. Many, especially neutralists, believed they could work within the new, communist system.

Among the tens of thousands of Laotians associated with the former regime who were arrested were 40 high-ranking military officers and civil servants. These provided the "hard-core" of the prisoners thrust into Camp 01 in the Houa Phan Gulag.

Within four years, 26 of the men were dead, and Camp 01 was closed by the Pathet Lao because of the death toll. Since then, all but six of the original 40 have died in new Camp 07.

The survivors include no former military generals. The highest-ranking among them is the ex-neutralist speaker of the Laotian Parliament, Khamtoui Sakda. Two others are former Royal Lao Army colonels. Three others—also under life sentences—are accused of previous contact with American intelligence.

All the men have received a trial. A typical trial lasts three to five minutes, and occurs 18 to 24 months after arrest. No defence is allowed.

The highest-ranking ex-general in the Gulag in 1975 was former army commander Gen Ouan Lattikon. In 1977, he was killed by a detail of Pathet Lao guards who threw him on and off the back of a truck until he died.

The guards joked with prisoner-witnesses that day that they had "bounced him to death."

Several of the high-ranking prisoners were sentenced to death by a secret court, or by camp authorities after this. No prisoner ever knew who passed the actual sentence.

"Death by the knife" was their common fate, according to the sources for this series of stories.

Terror Tactic [subhead]

An ex-student who provided information said the bayonet was used to kill the men so that other prisoners would not hear shots, and thus would remain calm. A former policeman theorises that "death by the knife" was used as a terror tactic—and to save bullets.

Whatever the reason, all executions were similar.

Guards arrived in a prison hut early in the morning. They told the condemned man that he was being sent to another camp, often for political reeducation. Just out of sight of the prisoners' compound, they killed him, and prisoners were detailed to bury him.

The camp was then closed for three days, with all prisoners confined to their huts. This, apparently, was to prevent any collusion to revolt against prison authority.

In April, 1986, a rumour swept Camp 07 that the Pathet Lao had authorised a delegation from the London-based human-rights group Amnesty International [AI] to visit the Laotian Gulag. Even the guards talked about it.

This apparently sparked the execution of the last two generals in Pathet Lao hands.

The last man killed was former Brig Gen Sin Sasana.

Sin had been a 10-year inspiration to other prisoners. Always friendly, and seemingly indestructible, Sin actually appeared to thrive on the near-starvation diet of "rat rice." On several occasions, he had tried to escape.

After bed check at night, he once told the young student: "You are young, and you will live to get out of here. Go to the free world and tell them that the communists have white faces and black hearts."

They came for Sin on April 7, at the height of the rumour about the AI visit. The guards gave him the bunk about transfer to another camp, but by this time no one believed them.

Sin, said the ex-student who was an inmate of the same hut, walked out with his head held high. "You can kill me," he told the guards, "but you cannot conquer the world."

He suffered death by the knife in the Camp 07 graveyard. Minutes later, the young student was one of four prisoners ordered to dig his grave.

Philippines

Ileto Resigns as National Defense Secretary
*HK210945 Hong Kong AFP in English 0922 GMT
21 Jan 88*

[Text] Manila, Jan 21 (AFP)—President Corazon Aquino Thursday named Armed Forces chief of staff General Fidel Ramos as secretary of national defense in place of Rafael Ileto, who resigned over the way the communist insurgency was being handled.

In his letter of resignation, released by aides here, Mr. Ileto said the insurgency was the major problem facing the country and it needed to be dealt with "by a well-organised, revitalised armed forces."

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 0639 GMT on 21 January reports the following: "In his letter dated January 14 and released by Mr. Ileto's aides Thursday, the defense secretary said he felt the communist insurgency was 'the major threat to the country and should be dealt with effectively by a well-organised, revitalised armed forces.'"]

"It has been my distinct impression that the reorganisation of the military has not proceeded as I had envisioned and I feel that divisive elements and controversial issues within the military...will erode whatever gains we have achieved" since President Aquino came to power in 1986.

The government has survived five coup attempts, the most recent and most nearly successful staged by disgruntled junior military officers in August.

Military sources said Mr. Ileto and Gen. Ramos had differed on how to handle the 19-year-old communist insurgency led by the 23,000-strong New People's Army (NPA), but a spokesman for Mr. Ileto said there was no personal dispute between them.

Mrs. Aquino announced the appointment of Gen. Ramos in a nationwide television address and immediately launched a military revamp, appointing his deputy, Lieutenant General Renato de Villa, as chief of staff and summoning 21 colonels to the presidential palace to select potential new brigadier-generals.

The third major shakeup in the 23-month-old government came three months ahead of the scheduled retirement of 33 generals in April, which was expected to trigger a top-to-bottom reorganization of the 160,000-strong armed forces.

It also occurred as communist rebels and the military braced for a more intense showdown this year.

A Western military attache here said Gen. Ramos, 59, had apparently won out in a quiet power struggle with the 67-year-old Mr. Ileto, his former mentor and a fellow graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Mr. Ileto told reporters Thursday that he felt "useless" and that his policies were not being implemented.

He and Gen. Ramos were co-leaders of the revolt that toppled the 20-year Ferdinand Marcos regime and put Mrs. Aquino in power, but they were widely rumored to be at odds with each other in recent months.

Mr. Ileto belonged to the Army, while Gen. Ramos comes from the Philippine Constabulary (PC), a paramilitary peacekeeping force with police, combat and intelligence functions.

The new Armed Forces chief of staff, Lt. Gen. de Villa, is a Ramos protege and current chief of the PC, which used to be headed by Gen. Ramos. He is an artillery expert with a reputation as a professional and apolitical soldier.

Military sources said Brigadier General Ramon Montano, Manila's security chief, was expected to be the next PC chief.

They also said Gen. Ramos must retire from the Armed Forces before he can join the cabinet.

Mrs. Aquino praised Mr. Ileto in her television address, saying that he was "one of the most highly decorated men in our history" and the architect of the crushing of a communist rebellion in the 1950's.

Mr. Ileto became defense secretary in November 1986 when Mrs. Aquino sacked Juan Ponce Enrile after he was linked to a military coup plot.

Mr. Ileto fought with U.S. forces in the Pacific theater in World War II, and later founded the Philippine Army Scout Rangers, an elite force that led a successful campaign against a communist rebellion in the 1950's.

Mr. Ileto submitted his resignation January 14 but waited until after Monday's crucial local government elections to announce he was stepping down in order not to "rock the boat," military sources said.

Mr. Ileto told a news conference that before he decided to leave "there were hints that I should resign—from the president."

"I had a long talk with the president about two weeks ago. She called for me and it was a very nice talk...there is nothing really bad about it."

Mr. Ileto said he kept his views to himself because he feared that if he took the limelight it would further "factionalize" the armed forces and "it will be bad for the military and for the country."

Mr. Enrile, the former defense chief, said the resignation was "a very unfortunate event in our national life."

He said over ABS-CBN television that his successor's resignation came at a time when the country needed "at least the appearance of stability."

Aquino Accepts Resignation

*HK210847 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0733 GMT 21 Jan 88*

[Speech by President Corazon Aquino on the resignation of Defense Secretary Rafael Ileto, in English; monitored in progress—live]

[Text] [Passage indistinct] the brilliant officership and total involvement, not being [word indistinct] of the risks involved. Throughout the period of the Marcos dictatorship, General Ileto was one of the handful of senior military officers who represented the (?brilliant) example of the best of the Filipino military tradition. And so, during the snap presidential campaign and in the revolution, I had him constantly in mind as one of the future leaders in the movement to genuinely reform the Armed Forces. At the first opportunity, therefore, I appointed him to head the Defense Ministry in its efforts in the direction of general professionalism—meaning to say, a sincere detachment from politics and true patriotism.

He lived up to my expectations. Under the military leadership of which he was an important part, the Armed Forces adhered strictly to its constitutional duties and loyalties, crushed all threats to the government, and proved itself in the (assured efforts) of democracy.

In leaving the government, Gen. Ileto leaves us a legacy of continuing concern for the development of general professionalism in the Armed Forces—the true ingredient in the final defeat of the communist insurgency. I share his concern and assure him that the work he began shall be completed by us.

With his characteristic humility, he suggests that perhaps a vision other than his might help us best address our concerns regarding the military and the insurgency. May I assure Gen. Ileto that there is only one vision of the Armed Forces, and it is that which we share and in which his distinguished career is the best example: total devotion to honor, duty, and country.

I accede to his desire to resign from the defense department with much reluctance, with the highest respect for him and with the hope that we can continue to depend on his counsel, and we shall always be inspired by his service to the nation.

To Gen. Rafael Ileto, my heartfelt thanks and the deep gratitude of our people.

I am appointing Gen. Fidel V. Ramos as secretary of national defense. In his place as chief of staff, I am appointing Gen. Renato de Villa.

Ramos Appointed New Secretary
*HK210705 Hong Kong AFP in English 0659 GMT
21 Jan 88*

[Text] Manila, Jan 21 (AFP)—President Corazon Aquino has named Armed Forces chief General Fidel Ramos as the new secretary of defense, Senate President Jovito Salonga said Thursday.

He replaces Rafael Ileto, who announced his resignation Thursday.

Mr. Salonga told reporters after meeting Mrs. Aquino at the presidential palace that Lieut. Gen. Renato De Villa will replace Gen. Ramos as Armed Forces chief of staff. He was the general's second in command.

The president is commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

There was no immediate word from Mrs. Aquino, who aides said was preparing to make a nationwide television address to announce the third major shakeup in her government since she came to power in a popular revolt 23 months ago.

Gen. Ramos, 59, would have to be retired to assume the defense portfolio. Only civilians can join the cabinet.

He has long been due to retire after completing 36 years of service, the normal limit, but his term was extended by former President Ferdinand Marcos, whom he helped depose in February 1986.

Mrs. Aquino named him Armed Forces chief after the revolt.

A new constitution subsequently set a single three-year term for the position, making Gen. Ramos's retirement date February next year.

Gen. Ramos has crushed five coup attempts against Mrs. Aquino.

Ileto Holds News Conference
*HK211104 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
1000 GMT 21 Jan 88*

[Excerpts] Rafael Ileto resigned from his post as secretary of national defense due to alleged differences with Armed Forces chief General Fidel Ramos on counterinsurgency policies. Ileto's letter of resignation was dated 14 January but was only announced publicly today by the defense department.

However, Ileto stressed that his move was not a personal attack against the leadership of the Armed Forces.

President Aquino immediately accepted Ileto's resignation and named Gen. Ramos as secretary of national defense after retiring him as Armed Forces chief. Succeeding Ramos as Armed Forces chief was Gen. Renato de Villa. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Ileto stated that there was division within the military regarding counterinsurgency policies. In a news conference held this afternoon, Ileto added that the National Security Council has yet to be convened by the authorities. According to him, he deliberately delayed announcement of his resignation so as not to affect the just-concluded elections. [Ileto recording indistinct]

Metro Manila Partial Election Results
*HK201411 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 20 Jan 88 p 1*

["Partial Results" of Metro Manila Polling as of 1500 GMT on 19 January]

[Text]

Manila
For Mayor:

Official

Unofficial

	Official	Unofficial		Official	Unofficial
Lopez, G. Jr [PDP- Laban]		217,135	Makati For Mayor:		
Atienza, J. Jr [LP]		119,134	Binay, J. [PDP-La- ban]	2,405	68,912
Kalaw, E. [GAD-LP] For Vice Mayor:		52,448	Syjuco, A. Jr [IND- Move Makati]	2,042	48,293
Barbers, J. [LP]		194,908	For Vice Mayor:		
Lacuna, D. [PDP-La- ban]		189,463	Bernardo, C. [PDP- Laban]	2,345	61,300
Quezon City For Mayor:			Salvador, J.L. [LP- Move Makati]	2,059	49,366
Simon, B. Jr [PDP- Laban]	6,507	86,793	Paranaque For Mayor:		
Planas, C. [LP]	6,442	71,881	Ferrer, W. [PDP-La- ban]	18,046	19,489
Albert, M. [LNB] For Vice Mayor:	2,292	28,795	Olivares, P. [LP]	13,711	11,925
Sotto, V. III [PDP- LABAN]	9,607	114,654	For Vice Mayor:		
Belmonte, F. [LNB]	3,133	30,961	De Leon, E. [PDP- Laban]	16,712	22,472
Passay City For Mayor:			Banaga, T. Jr [Cru- zada]	14,062	12,668
Calixto, E. [PDP-LNB]		21,390	Pasig For Mayor:		
Cuneta, P. [IND]		18,056	Eusebio, V. [Unido- NP-PDP- LNB]		25,112
Claudio, J. [NLP] For Vice Mayor:		17,333	Raymundo, M. [PDP- Laban]		23,066
Monsod, M. [PPM]		11,207	For Vice Mayor:		
Ochoa, V. [PDP-LNB]		11,060	Andres, A. [PDP-La- ban]		20,359
Caloocan City For Mayor:			Cayton, M. [LP]		19,516
Asistio, M. Jr [LK- IND]	12,429	37,643	San Juan For Mayor:		
Martinez, A. [PDP- Laban]	8,744	26,861	Sto. Domingo, A. [LP]	11,193	10,911
Teodoro, F. [Unido- NP-FTM- GAD] For Vice Mayor:	5,109	18,737	San Pascu- al, R. [Laban]	10,731	9,785
Rosca, C. [LK-IND]	11,010	33,739	For Vice Mayor:		
Reyes, V. [Unido]	6,994	19,456	Ejercito, J. [LP]	19,886	22,486
			Domingo, R. [Laban]	7,933	7,063
			Mandalu- yong		

	Official	Unofficial
For Mayor:		
Abalos, B. [PDP-Laban]	3,125	25,873
Gonzales, J.M. [LP- Unido]	1,086	10,029
Marikina		
Valentino, R. [Laban]		19,533
Rivera, B. [NUCD]		17,363
Tagig		
For Mayor:		
Garcia, I. [PDP-Laban-IND]	3,285	19,559
De Guzman, R. [PDP-LNB]	3,008	18,683
Navotas		
For Mayor:		
Del Rosario F.N. Jr [LP-PDP-LNB]	10,904	29,929
Javier, V. [NP]	7,710	21,509
Malabon		
For Mayor:		
Oreta, P. [PDP-Laban]		27,668
Abad, M. [PDP-Laban]		19,217
Valenzuela		
For Mayor:		
De Guzman, S. [NP]		19,050
Chongco, W. [Laban]		16,285
Muntinlupa		
For Mayor:		
Aguilar, A. [IND]	640	8,558
Bunye, I. [Laban]	412	5,949
Pateros		
For Mayor:		
Borja, C. [PDP-LNB]		8,153
Borja, B. JR [LP]		7,123

Vote Counting Delayed

HK211315 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
1230 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Tension continues to reign in some parts of Metro Manila due to delay in the counting of votes. In this connection, the Capital Regional Command has posted

soldiers in the municipal hall of Paranaque to prevent possible disturbances. Counting of votes remains suspended there after unidentified armed men entered the session hall of Paranaque municipal hall.

Meanwhile, based on an unofficial tally this afternoon, Wally Ferrer continues to lead in the mayoralty race by a margin of 8,000 votes.

In Muntinglupa, tabulation of elections returns remains suspended after some independent candidates raised questions on the watchers' issue.

Similarly, counting of votes is still incomplete in Taguig, Rizal, Pasig, Quezon City, Pasay City, and Caloocan City. The candidates in these areas are locked in tight races.

Partial Returns of Quezon City Election

HK210645 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0400 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] According to the partial official Comelec count from 444 precincts, or 10% of the Quezon City precincts, the result is as follows: Simon is leading LP [Liberal Party] candidate Charito Planas by 2,000 votes. But according to unofficial election returns, Simon is leading by a big margin of 12,000 votes. Running third is Mila Aquino Albert of Lakas ng Bansa [Power of the Nation], and following her is former LTC [Land and Transportation Commission] commissioner and NP [Nationalista Party] candidate Mariano Santiago.

For the vice mayoralty race, the partial official and unofficial election returns show that Sotto of PDP-Laban [Pilipino Democratic Party-Lakas ng Bayan—Nation's Strength] is leading by a large margin.

Administration Candidates Win in Nueva Ecija

HK211001 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0900 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] In 29 Nueva Ecija towns, 21 administration candidates for mayor and 25 for vice mayor were victorious in the just-concluded election. According to the official tabulation of the municipal board of canvassers, the opposition won in the towns of Bongabon, Cabiao, Licab, Llanera, and Talavera. Two independent candidates won the mayoral slate in the towns of Gapan and Jaen.

In Bacolod City, 23 pro-administration mayoral candidates won in 27 towns and 3 cities of Negros Occidental.

Laurel Family Suffers 'Stunning Upset'

*HK210422 Hong Kong AFP in English 0410 GMT
21 Jan 88*

[Text] Manila, Jan 21 (AFP)—Philippine Vice President Salvador Laurel's family suffered a stunning upset in Monday's local elections when his nephew, Benjamin Laurel, lost his bid for the governorship in their traditional bailiwick of Batangas Province, press reports said Thursday.

Politicians here said Mr. Laurel's defeat to President Corazon Aquino's candidate Vicente Mayo could damage Mr. Laurel's chances of succeeding Mrs. Aquino when her term ends in 1992.

Mr. Benjamin Laurel had hoped to replace outgoing governor Jose Laurel III, another one of the vice president's nephews, who had decided not to run.

The unraveling of the Laurels' stranglehold on Batangas politics was attributed by the Manila press to popular rejection of "political dynasties" allegedly being set up by wealthy clans like the Aquinos and Laurels.

Relatives of Mrs. Aquino have also lost bids to capture the posts of mayor in Quezon City, a Manila suburb, and of governor in nearby Rizal Province.

Mrs. Aquino and Mr. Laurel fell out last year, and Mr. Laurel resigned from his position of foreign minister, although he held on to the vice presidency.

Monday's elections for provincial, city and town officials was seen as a dry run for the 1992 presidential elections, with aspirants fielding relatives and followers to preserve their bailiwicks and expand their influence elsewhere.

The Laurels had won the governorship of Batangas, a prosperous province near Manila, even when they were in the opposition in the 1980 elections held under martial law, when deposed president Ferdinand Marcos was in power.

Areas With Suspended Vote Counting Named

*HK210635 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0400 GMT 21 Jan 88*

[Text] The Comelec hopes that tension in counting areas will be eased following the deployment of additional soldiers and police to assure peace and order. The Comelec has issued the directive due to the suspensions and delays in counting which had been attributed to the misbehaviour of some candidates' followers. The troops were deployed to areas near the municipal buildings, city halls, and provincial capitols. The areas where counting of votes had been suspended are: Pasig; Paranaque; Pasay City; Mandaluyong; Las Pinas; Villasis, Pangasinan; Nasugbo, Batangas; Dona Remedios, Trinidad; Bulacan; and Tagaytay City, Cavite.

There was confusion in Paranaque yesterday following the discovery of 500 ballot boxes in two old houses [as heard] near the municipal building. Some candidates and their followers believe these boxes are new, but the Comelec claims that they contain ballots which are the subject of protest from the May elections.

Delayed Returns Cause Tension in Bulacan

*HK211144 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
1000 GMT 21 Jan 88*

[Text] Tension in St Maria, Bulacan continues to reign because the local Comelec registrar has not yet released the names of the winning candidates in the area. According to the unofficial counting released by the municipal board of canvassers, Lakas [Lakas ng Bansa—Power of the Nation] candidates Eriberto Ramos for mayor and Lito Cruz for vice mayor are leading.

This morning, followers of former mayor Lino Luciano staged a protest rally due to alleged cheating in the canvassing of the election returns. Lakas councillor candidate Rudy da Silva is the only sure winner in St Maria.

Troops Quell Paranaque Vote Count Disturbance

*HK210221 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0100 GMT 21 Jan 88*

[Text] Some 250 Capcom [Capital Command] soldiers had to break up an unruly gathering of persons who created a disturbance in the Paranaque Municipal Hall. The people were demanding the suspension of the counting of election returns because some men had allegedly tampered with the votes during the Monday election. The soldiers, led by Capcom Brigadier General Alexander Aguirre, were ordered to Paranaque by the Comelec, which had received calls for assistance. This was in connection with reports that 15 truckloads of supporters of mayoralty candidates Pablo Olivares of the Liberal Party and Nicanor Cruz of the Cruzada ng Bayan [Nation's Crusade] had attempted to enter the municipal hall where the counting of election returns was going on.

More Troops Deployed to Vote Count Locations

*HK210211 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company
in English 2300 GMT 20 Jan 88*

[Text] The Commission on Elections directed yesterday [20 January] the deployment of more troops and policemen in areas near municipal buildings, city halls, and provincial capitols where the canvassing of votes is being held so that they can extend assistance in case followers of candidates become unruly, disrupt the canvassing, and threaten to harm members of boards of canvassers. Among the places where the canvassing of votes had to be suspended were. [passage indistinct]

Paper Says Guerrillas Caused Election Violence
HK201437 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER in English 20 Jan 88 pp 1, 8

[By Cesar Espino "with reports from" Inocencio Madrazo, Cynthia Roxas, and Bert Basa]

[Text] Communist guerillas scored heavily against the military on election day but did little else to take political and propaganda advantage of the electoral process.

A declassified military intelligence report blames much of the election violence on the communist-led New People's Army, which killed pro-administration candidates in several areas nationwide "in their effort to ensure the victory of CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-backed candidates."

Ironically, the report said, there were relatively few rebel-initiated election-related violent incidents in Bicol. This, the report said, may be because the insurgents used the election period to extort money from candidates in exchange for safe-conduct passes in rebel-controlled areas.

Bicol was ranked No. 1 by the military among rebel-affected areas in the number of violent incidents and in election-related violence during last year's congressional polls. For last Monday's elections, the region was also among the top potential "hot spots."

The report said that the low number of incidents may indicate that some candidates have acceded to the rebels' demands and election policies to ensure their victories.

The report said there are indications that the assassination of administration gubernatorial candidate Roy Padilla of Camarines Norte on the eve of the elections was carried out by communist hit men, since he was a staunch supporter of government policies. He was killed Sunday while speaking at his *miting de avance* [grand rally] in Labo town, which the military said is "heavily infested by the communists."

The rebels killed 22 bets and seriously injured four others. They also kidnapped 18 candidates but released 13 of them later.

Two of those released reportedly paid a P30,000 ransom each.

In Northern Luzon, it was reported that the rebels collected at least P112,000 and 16 firearms from the candidates they had kidnapped for ransom.

The rebels had also killed 16 campaign leaders or political followers and wounded six.

Rebels in Central Luzon were reported to have registered the highest number of election-related killings in what the military calls an apparent implementation of their punitive action against traditional politicians and political warlords.

On the other hand, the communists effectively took advantage of the increased movement and thin deployment of government troops to conduct tactical armed offensives.

There were a total of 140 election-related violent incidents recorded during the campaign period, which started last Dec. 1, resulting in 105 persons killed, 40 of them candidates. A total of 86 others was wounded and 22 were missing.

The military blames unidentified armed men for 72 of the incidents, the communists for 66, and two by political rivals.

The most number of incidents took place in Metro Manila and Cagayan Valley which registered 18 incidents each.

Fifteen took place on election day, the most significant of which was the ambush of a Constabulary patrol in Kalinga-Apayao. Eight members of the patrol were killed and only one—2nd Lt. Israel Dixon who was earlier reported by the military as having been killed—survived.

On election day, the rebels staged three other attacks—in Surigao del Norte and Davao Oriental and in Davao del Norte, where a rebel land mine hit a military truck and killed 22 soldiers.

In what the military described as a desperate attempt to get the most out of the elections, the communists also resorted to ballot-snatchings in Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Antique, Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, and Eastern Samar.

The military expects more ballot box-snatchings "in areas where CPP-backed candidates fared poorly in the elections as well as in rebel-influenced areas and in places under Comelec control, particularly in Bicol, Panay, Samar, and Davao areas. [quotation marks as published]

In Sta. Ana, Pampanga, armed men believed to be NPA rebels seized at least 11 ballot boxes containing some 4,000 ballots in four barangays a few hours after the voting and destroyed 4,000 ballots.

The ballots represented one-third of the town's voting population and Comelec officials said they may declare a failure of elections in the town.

Reports reaching Camp Olivas said the boxes were snatched by rebels in barangays Sta. Lucia, San Bartolome, San Isidro and San Jose.

The rebels, wearing fatigue uniforms and with high-powered weapons told the teachers, "Huwag kayong matakot. Mga NPA kami. Utos ito sa itaas. (Don't be afraid. We are NPAs. This is an order from the top.)"

Rolando Capitolo, Comelec regional supervisor, said the Comelec regional office here may declare a failure of elections in Sta. Ana because of the incident.

The Comelec officials also said the canvassing will continue at the town hall but the winners will not be proclaimed pending advise from the Comelec's legal officials.

The canvassing in Nueva Vizcaya was marred by the killing of a Liberal Party watcher inside a polling precinct Monday.

Lt. Col. Arturo Lomibao, Constabulary commander, said watcher Juanito Ara, was killed when the rebels snatched ballot boxes in Aritao town.

In Samar and Leyte, seven persons—four of them rebels—were killed in separate incidents on election day.

The rebels were killed in a clash between a 25-man rebel band and soldiers in San Jose, Eastern Samar.

In Libagon, Leyte, rebels ambushed militiamen aboard a tricycle and killed a tricycle driver.

In Hindang, also in Leyte, rebels killed two anti-communist vigilantes and kidnaped a barangay captain.

Election-Related Death Toll Reaches 119

*HK211325 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
1300 GMT 21 Jan 88*

[Text] The number of persons killed in elections-related violence since 19 November has reached 119. According to the PC, the figure is expected to rise as more reports come in from the provinces. The PC added that so far, 113 persons have been wounded and 56 have been kidnapped, 33 of whom have been released, while 22 others are still missing [figures as heard].

NPA Intervention in Polls Said Prevented

*HK200659 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0400 GMT 20 Jan 88*

[Text] The deployment of military personnel as well as the participation of civilian volunteers in Central Luzon and other critical areas have stopped the New People's Army from directly intervening in the just-concluded local elections. This was the assessment of Colonel Cesar Nazareno, Central Luzon PC-INP regional commander.

He said that military men were deployed until midnight on Monday. These included 4 Army battalions, 1,500 cadets, and 800 organic [as heard] Constabulary police personnel.

Earlier, intelligence reports revealed that the NPA supported some 100 provincial and mayoralty candidates in Pampanga, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Bataan, and Aurora. However, Nazareno said most of these candidates were defeated in the polls.

Elections Said To Boost Government's Stability

*HK201423 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 20 Jan 88 pp 1, 11*

[By staff member Sheila Coronel]

[Text] Last Monday's elections boosted the stability of the Aquino Government but also exposed its vulnerability to the issue of dynastic politics, specially as it applies to Mrs. Aquino's relatives.

Politicians from various parties agreed that the relatively peaceful and credible conduct of the local polls contributed to the image of government stability.

But they also said that the fact that many of the Aquino relatives seeking local government posts appeared to be losing revealed a popular disaffection with Aquino kin and the Government's vulnerability to the issue of political dynasties.

President Aquino, however, said that so far she was "really very pleased" with the poll results.

Opposition leader Senator Juan Ponce Enrile told yesterday's "Bulung-Pulungan" [whisper-meeting] that with elections over, "the Government has the organization and it can mobilize" for, among other things, anti-insurgency activities.

"Now we can expect a certain stability," he said.

"We might have lost a few battles," said Lakas ng Bansa president, president brother-in-law Paul Aquino, "but we won the war in terms of stability, credibility and an improved public image."

Senate President Jovito Salonga, head of the Liberal Party and strident critic of Presidential relatives seeking elective posts, also said that the "elections were credible by and large."

But he added that the apparent resounding victory of LP bets against Aquino kin running in Rizal province and the loss in Quezon City of presidential sister-in-law Mila Albert were revealing.

"The Rizal and Quezon City results show a rejection of dynasties but not necessarily of Cory," Salonga said.

Enrile agreed that the setback suffered by Aquino relatives "indicates the temper of the people—that they don't want her relatives running for public office while she's there."

For Paul Aquino, the LP's stunning performance in Rizal against the sumulong, the President's relatives on her mother's side, "just goes to show that the dynasty issue worked."

Salonga had campaigned for LP candidates by taking a strong anti-dynasty position. The Sumulong is Salonga's long-time rivals for political supremacy over Rizal province.

Senator Ernesto Maceda called the results of the Rizal elections a "personal victory for Salonga."

Maceda believed that the ruling coalition would win at least 60 per cent of the provincial and municipal positions but said this would be a "diminution of her popularity."

Administration candidates got 85 per cent of the vote in the congressional elections in May last year.

"It was an unimpressive victory on points simply because she is the champion," Maceda said. "Normally, when the bout is unimpressive, you give it to the champion."

But though the LP made good in Rizal, Paul Aquino said that the other pro-Administration parties, PDP [Pilipino Democratic Party]-Laban and Lakas ng Bansa, fared better than the LP [Power of Nation] in the rest of the country.

PDP-Laban has so far garnered the most wins, Aquino said. "Between the two of us—PDP and Lakas—we got most of the seats," he added.

Salonga, however, clarified that the LP started the race for local government posts "from zero" and whatever positions the party won was thus to be considered a gain.

On the other hand, he said, PDP and Lakas bets had, to begin with, cornered most of the local government positions before the polls and so the fact that the LP made inroads into the PDP-LAKAS monopoly was already an achievement.

He added that in some areas the party did not really intend to win but only to build an electoral organization. The LP had fielded about 55 gubernatorial bets.

According to Salonga, LP bets were leading in Capiz, Aklan, Antique, Iloilo, Batanaes, Pangasinan, Cebu, Negros Oriental, Eastern Samar and Samar. The LP also expected to win in Leyte and Quezon where special elections will soon be held.

The opposition fared poorly. "The elections saw the demise of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL)," said Maceda. "The Grand Alliance for Democracy did not even see it fit to field candidates except in some areas. Same with the Nacionalista Party. [NP]"

Enrile, however, claimed that the NP, which he heads, would win several governorships. "We are better off now than during the Marcos years when only two NP governors won," he said.

The opposition leader said NP was confident of winning in Pangasinan, La Union, Palawan, Nueva Vizcaya, Bohol and Leyte.

While the NP gubernatorial bet in his home province of Cagayan, Alfronso Tuzon, was trailing, Enrile was confident that the party would win 60 to 70 per cent of the mayoralties in that province.

Columnist on Implications of Poll Results
HK191001 Manila THE PHILIPPINE STAR
in English 19 Jan 88 p 5

[From "Straight from the Shoulder" column by Luis D. Beltran: "Everyone's Looking Beyond 1991"] txt
[Text] Results of the local elections have far-reaching implications in the political life of the Current Administration [CA].

This may be the reason why there was a sudden switch on the part of the CA from a position of being "above politics" to active, often brutal intervention.

The major factor for that intervention, of course, is the sudden emergence of the Liberal Party [LP] as a political organization to be reckoned with. If the CA has maintained its "apolitical" stance, the LP could have walked away with major posts on the local level—thus threatening the effective government of the CA for the rest of the term.

There is already a major bloc of LPs in the Senate and in the House, and if a significant number of local posts is garnered by the Liberals, the CA would more than ever have to accept the role of "lameduck" administration.

On the more practical aspects, should the Liberals win and control the political tide of events, they would determine who would become President in 1992.

Who becomes President in 1992 may not be important to the top CA leadership, which is sincerely apolitical—but a lot of crooks and abusers now hiding under the CA umbrella would face the fate of the Marcos Cronies under a new and unfriendly administration.

Everyone is already looking beyond 1991.

The survey organization cited by Malacanang in connection with the alleged "rebounded" popularity of the CA is the same one they cited after the October 28 speech which they claimed registered an above 70 percent approval.

During the same period, the Ateneo Social Weather survey was taken and showed a drop in CA popularity—a difference of above 30 points up or down, depending on which survey you believe.

Incidentally, surveys are old political gimmicks for Palace boys. The Cendana group had five or six survey groups showing how popular Marcos was in the Martial Law years.

In the end, the surveys didn't help keep him in power. The only people it helped were the groups who made money from the so-called surveys. Some of those making surveys for the Palace now were the same "surveyors" the Cendana group used.

Ultimately, the test of the CA's popularity will be the election results. In the past Senatorial and Congressional elections, there was a virtual clean sweep in favor of the CA candidates—perhaps as high as 90 percent election of administration bets.

The result was that even the mediocres who just wanted to run in local elections wound up in Congress by waving the Yellow Flag.

Local elections are a bit different—the voters have to live with the people they will elect into office. Popularity—whether that of the CA or of the candidate—is almost a secondary factor to what the candidate can deliver in terms of public services. That's as far as towns are concerned. In the cities, of course, there are bound to be major aberrations in the form of movie and TV stars who have never served in the past, who will win because they are popular.

The results of the Metro Manila elections will be known almost instantly—and if perceived patterns emanate, the results in the provinces will shortly show whether the CA continues to retain the moral authority to rule.

Now that the local elections are over, expect some "unpopular" decisions to be made by the CA.

Among the predictable decisions which may be implemented:

1. A purge of the Cabinet, the PCGG [Presidential Commission on Good Government], OICs [Offices-in-Charge] etc. to remove those recommended by Senate and LP president Jovito Salonga, as well as the Unido's [United Nationalist Democratic Organization] Vice President Salvador Laurel. In case you have forgotten the CA's "Reorganization Plan" was merely suspended for the elections and will be implemented—excuse the figure of speech—"with a vengeance";

2. The implementation of unpopular taxes, principally the increased real estate tax, a possible increase in the gasoline tax and of course, the Value Added Tax (VAT);

3. Some changes in monetary policy—probably an increase in interest rates, and—the unthinkable in the past!—a possible devaluation of the Philippine peso.

Needless to say, some CA officials will begin a "real" crackdown on administration critics, whether political or in other sectors like media. In case you have forgotten, the government continues to have radio and television stations under sequestration and other instrumentalities for crackdowns are under the control of some CA officials.

All this will happen because the next elections are going to be in 1992 and "popularity" isn't necessary in the intervening period.

Local Elections Viewed as Crucial Test
HK191009 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER in English 19 Jan 88 p 11

[by Cecilia G. Qiambao of PHILIPPINE NEWS AND FEATURES]

[Text] More than a "democratic" exercise, yesterday's local polls were a crucial preliminary to the 1992 presidential elections, as aspiring successors to President Corazon Aquino oil their political machinery in preparation for their planned capture of Malacanang when Ms. Aquino's term expires.

The elections were also seen as a test for the clandestine Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] which reportedly backed certain candidates. Analysts say the eventual victory of the CPP and its military arm, the New People's Army (NPA) hinges on the performance of their supported candidates, upon whom they are partly relying to counter the inroads of the United States-sponsored Low-Intensity Conflict anti-insurgency strategy.

Politicians like Jovito Salonga, Jose Cojuangco, Salvador Laurel, Juan Ponce Enrile and Joseph Estrada realize that for a politician to get to the top of the political ladder, he must have a bailiwick.

Each has handpicked candidates for the elections, knowing that they will have more chances of winning the presidency the more local governments they control. Senate president Jovito Salonga has successfully "pirated" top members of the ruling coalition, PDP-Laban [Philippine Democratic Party-Lakas ng Bayan-Strength of the Nation], into his own political party, the Liberal Party (LP), which fielded a separate slate in the local polls.

This has brought Salonga into a political conflict with Ms. Aquino, whose brother Jose Cojuangco and brother-in-law Agapito Aquino are known to be eyeing the presidency.

Observers say Salonga probably holds the ace, he being president of the Senate, long known as a major launching pad for the presidency.

Salonga has also recruited into the LP another would-be president, Senator Joseph Estrada. Estrada's defection to the LP from the right-wing Grand Alliance for Democracy is seen by many as a move to erase from the public's mind the stigma of his having once been a supporter of deposed president Marcos.

"Kingmaker" Jose Cojuangco, younger brother of Ms. Aquino, was also supporting candidates in various provinces, which many interpreted as an effort to consolidate his power base for his own bid for the Presidency, or for his sister's, in case she decides to run for reelection.

Cojuangco and another presidential brother-in-law, Paul Aquino were accused by the LP of allowing only Ms. Aquino's relatives and the allies of Cojuangco to run under the ruling coalition.

House speaker Ramon Mitra has distanced himself from the ruling coalition but has avoided antagonizing anybody. He backed the candidates of some of this fellow congressmen instead of those named by PDP-Laban.

Lone oppositionist Senator Juan Ponce Enrile and Vice President Salvador Laurel, meanwhile, were also consolidating forces in their own bailiwicks in Cagayan and Batangas, respectively.

The CPP-NPA, on the other hand, which still adheres to the "primacy of armed struggle" as a means to capture political power has, however, said it also recognizes the "importance of unarmed forces of political struggle."

If the statements of government officials are to be believed, the CPP-NPA had become a "third force" in the local elections.

Commission on Elections Chairman Ramon Felipe has said that communist inroads into the political system are more obvious in the current exercise than at anytime in the country's history.

Felipe said that about 10 percent of candidates were being supported by the CPP-NPA—some 15,000 of the estimated 150,000 candidates.

Even Mitra admitted that of all the parties participating in the elections, the CPP was the only one that was "ideologically different."

Enrile, for his part, had predicted that 30 to 40 percent of the winners in the elections would be leftists or communist-supported.

AFP Assesses Salonga's Position After Polls
*HK200707 Hong Kong AFP in English 0649 GMT
20 Jan 88*

[By Roberto Coloma]

[Text] Manila, Jan 20 (AFP)—Senate President Jovito Salonga has become the man to watch in Philippine politics after he defied President Corazon Aquino by fielding his own candidates in Monday's local elections and scoring major victories.

Mr. Salonga, a former cabinet member who has lately distanced himself from the Aquino-led ruling coalition, is now seen in political circles here as a leading contender to succeed Mrs. Aquino after she steps down in 1992.

The political stock of the 67-year-old lawyer, who trained at Harvard and Yale and has won the most votes for a single candidate in three senatorial elections in a career spanning 27 years, shot up recently when the Liberal Party (LP) drew key defections from coalition partners.

Then he defied Mrs. Aquino by fielding his men against some of the coalition's official candidates in Monday's provincial, city and town polls.

So-called "Cory's choices" routed the LP in Metropolitan Manila, but Mr. Salonga won a highly symbolic victory in adjacent Bulacan province, where his candidate for governor dealt a humiliating defeat to a cousin of the president.

The LP also looked set to capture a significant number of governorships and mayoralties nationwide, more than any group outside of the official ticket blessed by the chief executive, according to early unofficial returns.

Mr. Salonga's main beef with Mrs. Aquino is that her relatives are allegedly manipulating the presidency and the ruling coalition to gain political power and accumulate wealth.

In Rizal, his native province, Mr. Salonga successfully harped on the issue of an emerging "political dynasty" of Aquino relatives and in-laws.

Mr. Salonga, who began showing independence soon after winning most votes in senatorial elections under Mrs. Aquino's ticket in May, maintains that he remains an ally of the president, but not a blind follower.

His potential rivals to succeed Mrs. Aquino, Vice President Salvador Laurel and rightwing opposition leader Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, fared poorly in Monday's election when they backed limited tickets and lost in many instances.

The local polls covered provincial, city and municipal posts, and were the country's last major election before 1992, when there will be a political grand slam—simultaneous presidential, congressional and local polls.

Mr. Salonga is decidedly vague on his presidential ambitions, giving conflicting signals when asked about his plans for 1992.

There are doubts about Mr. Salonga's staying power, and as a devout Protestant with relatively little personal wealth he would seem an unusual president for this Roman Catholic country where money means power.

Apart from his age, he is blind in one eye and deaf in one ear and proudly says his body bears about 100 pieces of shrapnel from a grenade blast at an LP rally during the 1971 senate elections, when he also polled most votes for a single candidate.

Politicians say a Salonga presidential bid could meet a cold response in Washington, acknowledged as an invisible influence in Philippine presidential elections since this former U.S. colony gained independence in 1946.

Despite his stay in the United States, Protestant religion and U.S. education, Mr. Salonga has opposed the continued stay of two major military bases in the Philippines after their lease ends in 1991.

He will play a key role in determining the future of Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, since any agreement between executives of both countries in talks due to start this year must be approved by two-thirds of the senate.

The LP now counts seven of the 23 senators as members. Two additional defections to Mr. Salonga's party—and he expects more—are enough to block any bases agreement.

Paper Says Communist Growth Now Possible
HK191007 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English
19 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] The Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army (CPP-NPA) will grow in strength if the candidates for local posts supported by the movement will emerge winners in yesterday's balloting.

Gen. Eduardo Ermita, Armed Forces deputy chief of staff, yesterday said that documents obtained by military intelligence showed that some 157 candidates were supported by the CPP-NPA.

Ermita described the big number of candidates killed as "very alarming." He attributed the election-related deaths to the active intervention of the NPA rebels in the electoral process.

Ermita said that out of the 86 fatalities as of yesterday morning, 38 were candidates for local posts.

Col. Cris Maralit, spokesman of the Philippine Constabulary, placed the number of fatalities in election-related incidents at 95.

One of its latest fatalities was gubernatorial candidate Roy Padilla who was gunned down at Labu, Camarines Norte Sunday night.

Ermita said that the CPP-NPA imposed three conditions in exchange for its support of a candidate:

—The candidate should support the activities of the movement in his locality;

—He should work for the dismantling of any vigilante group like the "Alsa Masa"; and

—He should not allow the setting up of any vigilante group in his area if there is none yet.

NPA Pledges More 'Selective' Assassinations
HK200435 Hong Kong AFP in English 0421 GMT
20 Jan 88

[Text] Manila, Jan 20 (AFP)—Communist guerillas have vowed to be more selective in choosing assassination targets in Manila this year after a popular outcry over the murders of more than 100 policemen, soldiers and civilians in 1987.

An official statement sent to news agencies by the Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB), the Manila unit of the New People's Army (NPA), said policemen involved in petty corruption will be allowed to reform under an amnesty program.

It stressed that the program excluded those involved in counter-insurgency, prostitution, drug trafficking, summary executions, and demolitions of squatters' homes.

Newspapers, officials and civilian groups strongly denounced last year's wave of killings in Manila, which caused divisions within the political left.

Rightist death squads said to be tolerated by police killed leftist activists in retaliation.

NPA leaders recently said the ABB attacks were an error that had been rectified, and that henceforth, urban assassinations would focus on more prominent people and would be "political statements."

The NPA also said it will step up attacks on U.S. targets following the killing of two servicemen in October off the U.S. Clark Air Base near Manila.

ABB assassins usually operate in threes, shooting victims by surprise at close range in their car or walking in clear view of other people. They select targets from tip-offs by local supporters who give them sanctuary.

The ABB said in the statement that henceforth, it would ask for a written list of offenses allegedly committed by the prospective target "which will show the political basis for their killing and prove that it is just."

They will warn targets "with the potential for reform" in writing, through the newspapers or in person, and all killings will be coordinated by a central "planning and operations staff."

Insiders have said that the 1987 killings went out of control because of vague guidelines and excessive autonomy for local units.

Ramos Urges Creation of Peace, Order Councils
HK201215 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0945 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] General Fidel Ramos, Armed Forces chief of staff, has urged all local officials to set up so-called peace and order councils. He called for the early formation of these peace and order councils in all local government units. Now that local officials have been elected, they should take the lead in maintaining peace and order in all cities, provinces, and towns, he added.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines chief made these statements in a speech at Camp Aguinaldo marking the 1st anniversary of the establishment of the National Capital Regional Defense Command, headed by Brigadier General Ramon Montano.

According to Ramos, the peace and order councils at all local government units could prepare plans for defensive and security measures. The councils would also facilitate organization at the national and regional levels as well as provincial and municipal levels. Ramos said that owing to the long absence of elected local officials, soldiers and police officers had been burdened with the task of maintaining peace and stability in some towns. With the conclusion of the local elections, we will now have full democracy, he said.

Aquino Vetoes Presidential Appointee Bill
HK201101 Hong Kong AFP in English 1025 GMT
20 Jan 88

[Text] Manila, Jan 20 (AFP)—Philippine President Corazon Aquino Wednesday flexed her political muscle with her first veto since a new congress was inaugurated in July, rejecting a bill that would have required congressional approval for all sub-cabinet presidential appointments.

In a letter to Senate President Jovito Salonga, Mrs. Aquino said the bill was "a means to go around the clear-cut decision of the Supreme Court," which ruled last month that her naming a new customs bureau chief did not need congressional confirmation.

"The president yields to the court's judgment," she said. "The congress can do no less."

"To disturb this constitutional allocation of powers would destroy our democratic system," Mrs. Aquino said in her letter.

Under the Constitution, congress can override a presidential veto with a two-thirds vote in both houses. Mrs. Aquino's allies control more than that in the two houses.

The veto was the first test of wills between Mrs. Aquino and congress, and came at a time when Mr. Salonga, a former Aquino aide, was building up his own power base and campaigning against what he calls "dynasty-building" by her kin.

But Mrs. Aquino was unconcerned with the defeat of her relatives running for office in Monday's local elections, telling reporters before chairing the first post-election cabinet meeting that she respected "the wishes of the people."

Unofficial returns tallied by news organizations showed Aquino allies dominating the country's first free local poll in 17 years, the last major step in Mrs. Aquino's program to restore democracy.

"I think you remember when I said last November that I would discourage my relatives from running," she said. "And I also said, 'leave it to the people.' And now the people have spoken, and I respect the wishes of the people."

The veto came two days after Mr. Salonga defied her by fielding a separate group of local candidates from those of the ruling coalition.

The senate president is seen as a leading contender to succeed Mrs. Aquino after she steps down in 1992.

But there was no suggestion of a link between the polls and the veto, as the appointments issue had been simmering long before the elections.

Mrs. Aquino also issued a warning Wednesday to newly-elected local officials not to "obstruct good government," and threatened to retaliate with a slowdown in releasing funds.

"I am not going to play politics with anybody," presidential spokesman Teodoro Benigno quoted her as saying.

Female Domestic Workers Banned From Working Abroad
HK200903 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Filipino women will be temporarily banned from going abroad to work as domestic helpers. This order was made by President Corazon Aquino during a cabinet meeting that tackled the issue of abuses suffered by female domestic workers in foreign countries.

Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno said the suspension will be lifted for countries in which the rights of Filipina domestic workers are respected.

[Begin recording in English] [Unidentified reporter] Can you tell us more about this temporary suspension, like how much revenues the government will be deprived of?

[Benigno] You must understand that this temporary suspension worldwide does not apply to workers who are already in place. They will only be applied to those who will be applying for employment, so that the remittance, the repatriation of dollars from wherever they are to the Philippines, will not be stopped. This temporary suspension will apply to those who are desirous of going abroad to work as domestic help, female, not male, for reasons that we already discussed earlier. And I suppose that as there will be a temporary suspension worldwide, there will be negotiations between the Philippine Government or representatives of the Philippine Government and the governments that are affected, because they would like more and more domestic help from the Philippines to go to their respective countries. And so, these negotiations certainly will touch on the sensitive issues, the issues being abuse, exploitation, rape, and so on.

[Reporter] As a follow-up, the temporary suspension, is this not another way of saying that the ambassadors in countries affected were negligent in the performance of their duties?

[Benigno] No, on the contrary, these options were presented to the cabinet today, which includes temporary suspension. The decision was made after negotiations and consultations with the ambassadors. So, the ambassadors had their input in this matter.

[Reporter] Can you elaborate further on the date for effectivity of the suspension?

[Benigno] First of all, the date of suspension is not yet known and may be announced within a week. Secondly, suspension is total in the sense that there is no exception. But it refers only to Filipinas applying for jobs abroad as domestic help. Third, those already working abroad—in Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, and Singapore—will not be repatriated back to the country. They will stay in their jobs, and will not lose their jobs. They need not break their contracts and may even renew them, but that will

depend on the negotiations between representatives of the Philippine Government and the governments of these countries where Filipina domestic helps are found. [end recording]

In related developments, Labor Under Secretary Patricia Santo Tomas said that an estimated 82,000 Filipinas would be affected by the suspension order. She added, however, that she did not think implementation of the ban would substantially affect the country's revenues.

According to Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, he did not expect complications in the Philippines' relations with the countries affected by the suspension order. He also said that it was the responsibility of governments to protect their citizens overseas.

Air Force Colonel Killed in NPA Ambush
HK210953 Hong Kong AFP in English 0943 GMT
21 Jan 88

[Text] San Fernando, Philippines, Jan 21 (AFP)—An Air Force colonel and a communist guerrilla were killed in an ambush near here before dawn Thursday, military spokesmen said.

Air Force Colonel Napoleon Sabalbaro became the highest-ranking military official killed this year when a seven-man foot patrol he was leading was ambushed by New People's Army (NPA) rebels near Porac town, north of Manila, spokesmen said.

The soldiers returned fire, killing one of the rebels, they added.

The ambush occurred near Porac town, within 10 kilometers (six miles) of the U.S. Clark Air Base, the authorities said.

NPA guerrillas shot dead two U.S. servicemen, a U.S. civilian and a Filipino in simultaneous attacks outside Clark last October.

The rebels said the assassinations were a warning for Washington to stop supporting President Corazon Aquino's war against the NPA.

Thailand

Prem Discusses Refugees With U.S. Congressman
BK210919 Bangkok Domestic Service in English
0000 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon told U.S. Congressman Chester Atkins in their recent meeting that the refugees' flow into Thailand is continuing although third countries are accepting fewer refugees for resettlement. During the discussion held at Government House, the prime minister urged resettlement countries to accept more Indochinese refugees.

Government spokesman Michai Wirawaithaya quoted Mr Atkins who is concluding a 15-day visit to Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam as saying that the United States plans to give more aid to displaced Thai living along the Thai-Kampuchean border. Mr Atkins also said the United States would provide more funds for education of refugees living along the border.

Visiting Congressmen Urge Tougher Drug Laws
BK210145 Bangkok THE NATION in English
21 Jan 88 p 2

[By Sinfa Tansarawut]

[Text] United States congressmen yesterday urged the Thai Government to enact laws dealing with conspiracy, money laundering, and seizure of assets as "tools to cripple drug traffickers."

Passage of these laws will enable Thai law enforcement officials to trace and seize assets of large scale trafficking organizations and hurt their operations, the congressmen said in a statement.

Some of the 12 representatives, led by Charles Rangel, chairman of the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control, also repeated the call at a press conference yesterday at the Regent Bangkok Hotel.

"Once you have those tools, you will be able to do a better job. You'll be able to cripple the drug traffickers. And we're going to put them away where they belong—in jail," said Solomon Ortiz of Texas.

Prakop Aemdilokwong, a legal official of the Office of Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), said in an interview with THE NATION that ONCB officials will meet next Tuesday to discuss a draft on conspiracy and forfeiture laws, which has been in the making for a long time.

He said if the officials agree on the draft, it will be studied by the Narcotics Control Board, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Sonthi Bunyachai. Other key board members include the ministers of interior, public health, education, the police chief and the director general of the Public Prosecution Department.

The draft then has to be approved by the Cabinet and the Juridical Council before it is passed to Parliament for debate, said Prakop, director of ONCB's Legal and Scientific Detection Division.

He said the laws will give authorities strength to bring in those at the top of drug syndicates and seize their illegally-acquired assets.

The US Government has also been encouraging Thailand to equip its officials with the laws. The Justice Department in November 1986 sent two legal experts

from the Narcotics and Dangerous Drug Section to lecture Thai officials on the American version of the conspiracy and forfeiture laws.

ONCB officials told THE NATION they believe the laws will be difficult to enact if there is no support from the top government officials, including the prime minister.

In the Jan 26 meeting, ONCB officials will also consider a draft bill to force drug addicts to undergo rehabilitation. The officials believe this law is more agreeable than the others.

The US congressmen said the enactment of the conspiracy and forfeiture will enhance the anti-drug programme in Thailand.

Commenting on the money laundering issue, William Hughes of New Jersey said at the press conference: "We know that if we can trace the money, we will stand a better chance of reaching the (drug) kingpins early on."

The congressmen also urged Thailand to consider herbicide spraying to eradicate the remaining opium poppy fields and growing marijuana production.

Pol Maj Gen Chaowalit Yotmani, ONCB secretary general, has publicly spoken against the spraying of 2,4-D chemical, a major compound of the dangerous chemical Agent Orange, to kill poppy plants in Thailand, saying Thai officials can cut them down by hand.

Agent Orange was the main defoliant used by American troops in the Vietnam War. There are reports of cancer and fetus deformation in people exposed to the chemical.

Eradication of marijuana plants is being carried out in Thailand by cutting and burning. ONCB has just started surveying areas where marijuana is grown and no national plan has been made for its control.

Paraquat and glyphosate are the two other main herbicides used in Latin America to eradicate marijuana and cocaine.

William Thomas of California said the spraying will harm people and nature unless proper technology is used.

"Obviously, indiscriminate spraying by those who don't know how to use the chemical is going to cause problems," he said.

But he added: "When it is properly applied, it is a useful tool in many circumstances... with minimal, minimal health hazards."

The congressmen are visiting Burma where they are seeking more cooperation from the Rangoon Government on drug control.

Commander Announces Retaking of Hill 1182
BK210141 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
21 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] Thai soldiers have retaken a hill held by Laotian forces inside Thai territory at Ban Romklao in Chat Trakan district, Third Army Region commander Lt-Gen Siri Thiwaphan said yesterday.

He said the position was retaken on Tuesday. It was the ninth strategic area to have been recaptured on Hill 1182, north of Hill 1428.

The Thai side suffered no casualties, Lt-Gen Siri said. Four Laotian casualties were reported.

Laotian soldiers pounded 80 rounds of 122mm mortar, 105mm and 130mm artillery shells onto Ban Romklao yesterday. Two houses were destroyed but no casualties were reported.

Lt-Gen Siri said Thai troops would now advance to another position on Hill 1182. If this action is successful, he said, the supply line to Lao soldiers on Hill 1428 will be cut.

The Third Army Region commander said all Lao soldiers would be driven out soon and there would be no problems concerning Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon's planned visit to Ban Romklao.

Patrol Captures Vietnamese Infiltrators
BK210143 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
21 Jan 88 p 3

[Text] Aranyaprathet—Vietnamese and Heng Samrin soldiers have lately tried to infiltrate Thai territory to monitor Thai military movements and posed as defectors when caught, according to military sources.

On Monday, a Border Patrol Police [BPP] unit captured five Khmer soldiers of the Heng Samrin regime on Thai soil about one kilometre from the border near Ban Khok Thahan in Ta Phraya District. They were armed with three rifles and two hand grenades.

They told Thai soldiers that they were deserters and intended to surrender to Son Sann's Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

On the same day, Thai soldiers captured eight Vietnamese men and one woman near a reservoir in Ban Pa Rai, about two kilometres from the border to the south of Aranyaprathet.

The Vietnamese said they wanted to defect and seek resettlement in a third country. Several documents in Khmer and Vietnamese and maps were found on them.

A BPP patrol yesterday captured four Vietnamese men while crossing a strategic canal to Ban Khlong Nam Sai, 15 kilometres southeast of Aranyaprathet.

Forces To Join To Interdict Refugee Flow
BK180802 Bangkok Domestic Service in English
0000 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] The Royal Thai Navy and paramilitary Border Patrol Police, or the BPP, will join forces to prevent refugees from neighboring communist Indochinese states from entering Thailand. A Navy information officer said the move followed an order issued by the Interior Ministry aimed at stemming the influx of Indochinese refugees, particularly Vietnamese, from entering Thailand by land and sea, to make sure their arrival does not constitute a threat to national security.

He said Navy Commander in Chief Admiral Praphat Kritsanachan instructed the Navy's coastal patrol and marine units to join forces with the BPP and local police in Thailand's southeasternmost Trat Province bordering Kampuchea to prevent Vietnamese boat people from landing in Thailand.

According to statistics released by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees on Friday [15 January], a total of 11,195 Vietnamese boat people arrived in Thailand in 1987, compared to 3,886 in 1986.

17 WNA Burmese Soldiers Arrested in North
BK190109 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
19 Jan 88 p 6

[Text] Chiang Mai—Seventeen soldiers of the Wa National Army [WNA] were arrested at a field hospital in Fang District during a police crackdown yesterday in Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai and Mae Hong Son provinces.

The sweep was conducted as part of an operation code-named "Sarasin 1"—after the police commander, Gen Phao Sarasin—to eradicate criminals, weapons, drugs and illegal immigrants from the north.

The operation, involving about 700 Border Patrol and provincial policemen, was launched simultaneously in the three provinces at 6 a.m. under the supervision of assistant police chief Pol Lt Gen Prawit Wongwiset.

He said at the end of the operation at 2 p.m. the 17 WNA soldiers, belonging to a rebel minority group in Burma, were arrested at a field hospital at Ban Yang in Tambon Mae Sun.

Most were receiving treatment for injuries, he said.

The assistant police chief expressed amazement that a WNA hospital could be located on Thai soil only about 10 kilometres from a main road.

Police seized one rifle and ammunition, four pistols and two radios.

Other items seized yesterday included 20 litres of acetic-anhydride and small quantities of marijuana and opium.

Pol Lt Gen Prawit also said that at the end of last year, police arrested about 500 illegal immigrants in the north.

Asked to comment on reports that US officials in Chiang Mai had received threats from insurgents following local drug busts, he said he had been informed of the threats but so far there have been no incidents.

Security would remain tight for the Americans and their dependents, he said.

On forest poaching, Pol Lt Gen Prawit said the Police Department has ordered provincial officers to set up special units to be responsible for suppressing poaching and illegal logging.

Asked to comment on a reported meeting between drug warlord Khun Sa and Karen leader Bo Mya, he said it was their business as long as their activities were conducted outside Thailand.

"What we must do is to prevent them from using our soil for their operations. At the same time we must study what was the purpose of their meeting," he said.

Senior CPT Official, Bodyguard Released
BK170714 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai
17 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] A total of 75 prisoners were released yesterday at about 0930 from the Khlong Prem Central Prison in accordance with the royal amnesty for 1988. Among these, two were Damri Ruangsutham, 64, a former member of the CPT [Communist Party of Thailand] Politburo and Central Committee; and Prakop Thongthung, 30, Damri's bodyguard. Damri was sentenced by the military court to 10 years in jail for violation of the Anticommunist Act, while Prakop's term was for 8 years.

Damri was welcomed upon release by his wife, Wan, and two grandchildren. Damri appeared healthy and fresh although his hair has turned grey.

Speaking to journalists, Damri said, like other released prisoners, he was pleased to have been released by the royal amnesty. He will return to a pig farm and spend his spare time on his hobby painting. He said he spent 6 years and 9 months in jail and all this time he worked in the prison factory which produced rattan products.

Damri said: "I have not changed my desire to wage a struggle for justice and national interests. I have always been convinced of my ideals. Now I will have to get acquainted with the conditions outside prison and hope to be able to do something useful."

Prakop said after spending some time after release in Bangkok, he will work on his family's farm in Surat Thani Province. He said prison officials treated Damri and himself very well because they realized that their cases were not criminal. They could contact the prison chief any time in case of abuse by prison officials.

Various Government Opponents Surrender

800 Communists Give Up
BK180756 Bangkok Domestic Service in English
0000 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Some 800 communist sympathizers will give themselves up to authorities in separate ceremonies in southern Thailand. Spokesman of the Internal Security Operations Command Colonel Chanbun Phentrakun said the ceremonies will be held today in Muang District of Surat Thani, and tomorrow in Pattani. Both ceremonies will be presided over by Army Commander in Chief General Chawalit Yongchaiyut. Col Chanbun said all these former communist sympathizers have surrendered to the Army since October. The Army promised them amnesty and protection on condition that they abandon the armed struggle against the government, and resume civilian life.

Communists Surrender in Yala
BK160155 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
16 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] Yala—Three Communist Party of Malaya [CPM] insurgents surrendered to deputy governor Maj Chop Mongkhonrat yesterday.

They were identified as Ahme Sahe Budong, 23, Mrs. Sati Mariyo, 30 and Mrs Rohima, 22, of the CPM 10th regiment, operating in Waeng district of Narathiwat and Betong district of Yala.

Muslims Lay Down Arms
BK200105 Bangkok THE NATION in English
20 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] Pattani—A total of 641 Muslim insurgents who had terrorized the local populace in southern Thailand formally renounced their past and pledged to turn over a new leaf after having surrendered.

Their surrender was formally recognized in a ceremony presided over by Army Commander in Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut at Sirinthon army camp in Yarang District.

The former insurgents had left the jungle in response to the government amnesty policy which guarantees their safety.

Chawalit said many of the former insurgents were wanted on criminal charges and the authorities are trying to help them.

About 100 of them were draft dodgers, he said.

The army chief on Monday presided over a similar ceremony in Surat Thani to welcome about 300 defectors of the Communist Party of Thailand.

Asked about foreign support for the remaining Muslim terrorists, Chawalit said Thai authorities might need to talk with countries suspected of aiding them.

Labour Confederation To Locate in Bangkok
BK190113 Bangkok THE NATION in English
19 Jan 88 p 1

[Excerpt] The International confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), the democratic world's labour alliance, plans to establish its new Asia-Pacific headquarters here, a move viewed as an attempt to block the suspected continuing expansion of Soviet influence in Asia's labour movements.

Responding to the move, a pro-Soviet worldwide labour group hopes to set up a coordination office in Thailand.

Leading Thai unionists, claiming the Soviet Union is playing an "increasingly active role" in Thai labour affairs, said the ICFTU move is a "pre-emptive strategy" that will effectively halt the alleged effort by Moscow to make inroads here.

Welcoming the planned relocation of the Delhi-based regional headquarters, members of the Labour Congress of Thailand [LCT] and Thai workers also will benefit from several development projects of the organization.

A delegation led by V.S. Mathur, secretary general of ICFTU Asian and Pacific Regional Organization [APRO] met LCT and TTUC [Thai Trade Union Congress] leaders yesterday to sign an agreement on cooperation between the Thai labour councils and ICFTU-APRO.

The ICFTU delegation earlier met Labour Director general Siri Kewalinsarit, and Mathur said after the meeting he was "very hopeful" the relocation plan will get approval from the Thai Government.

He said the relocation would enhance coordinated labour development schemes in the region.

ICFTU-APRO is working on a series of educational and rural projects concerning skill development, work safety and women and child labour, he said.

LCT President Thanong Pho-an said the relocation plan will be considered by a committee comprising officials of government agencies, including the Interior and Foreign ministries, National Security Council and the Supreme Command.

The Brussels, Belgium-based ICFTU, which has 87,000,000 members in 97 countries has also been allowed to move its Asia-Pacific operational office from Singapore to Bangkok. [passage omitted]

Exporters Lose Money in Government Rice Deal
BK210427 Bangkok THE NATION in English
21 Jan 88 p 17

[Text] Rice exporters are losing more than 100 million baht in interest and other costs in the Commerce Ministry's controversial rice resale deal, according to the exporters' president.

Saman Ophatsawong, president of the Rice Exporters' Association, denied that the Commerce Ministry was making a loss on last month's decision to sell back to exporters 75,000 tonnes bought as a price support measure in 1985. He said the ministry would earn at least 20 million baht in profit.

The decision has brought the Commerce Ministry into conflict with Deputy Prime Minister Sonti Bunyachai and senior Government House officials handling rice policy because of allegations that the government is making a multi-million baht loss on the deal.

Sonti says he wants a report on the deal from Montri [Phongphanit, Commerce Minister]. Montri says he is not obliged to report to anyone and claims Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon told him in a telephone conversation that an investigation into the deal is not required.

Saman said yesterday he could not understand what the problem was. He said exporters were disappointed in the deal because normally the Commerce Ministry provides profitable incentives for exporters to help strengthen paddy prices but in the case of the 75,000 tonnes there was no order to deliver the rice and no money was paid for it.

If prices had fallen when the ministry decided to sell the rice no one would have complained, Saman said, but this time prices rose and complaints began because someone said the ministry should have made greater profits.

The time has come, he said, to reconsider how exporters should deal with the government.

Montri, meanwhile, continued to defend the deal, challenging comparisons between the stocked rice and "cake".

"I am an (elected) representative of the people. My achievements can be proved, and only those with vested interests to lose say otherwise," Montri said. "To those who say that the rice stocks are like cake that cannot be kept for long without being eaten, although it is uncertain whether it will taste good, I would like to say only those who have eaten cake would understand. I don't like cake. I prefer banana fritters (kluay khaek, kluay thod).

"We should work for the benefit of the country and stop interfering with those who are doing good," Montri said.

He stressed that Commerce Ministry regulations protect national interests and repeated that before action was taken he had reported to the prime minister.

The rise in paddy prices is the result of Commerce Ministry actions in forcing exporters to export, he said.

Papers Comment on Indochina Trade Policy

THE NATION Commentary

BK180908 Bangkok THE NATION in English
18 Jan 88 p 4

[Kawi Chongkitthawon commentary: "Thai Ambivalence Toward Vietnam Is Self-Defeating"]

[Text] The Thai private sector, wanting to do business with Vietnam, has rushed to trade and form joint ventures with Vietnam despite the Thai government's apprehension.

Local businessmen, ranging from former military leaders to student activists, as well as a senior foreign ministry official, have made business deals at their own risk with the Vietnamese in the past year.

The Vietnamese embassy said 1987 was an extraordinary year as a large number of Thai traders visited Vietnam in search of trading opportunities.

Politically, Thailand and Vietnam are at odds because of the latter's occupation of Kampuchea. Numerous border skirmishes in recent years also helped fan the Thai fear of Vietnamese aggression.

But as far as trade is concerned, the private sectors in both Thailand and Vietnam have maintained close contacts. At present, there is a joint venture on shrimp culture farming outside Ho Chi Minh City, a pending joint venture on orchid nursing and a fishing joint venture.

Last year, Thailand suffered a trade deficit of 8.8 million baht against a surplus of 28.4 in 1986. Thai exports to Vietnam last year totaled 36.7 million baht while Vietnamese exports were worth about 45.5 million baht. Major Vietnamese exports to Thailand are iron sheet, coal, raw shrimp, and rawhide.

At present, there are two major business groups that have established close business links with Vietnam. The first group is led by former deputy Foreign Minister Wong Phonninon; the other is led by Wichan Sirichai-ek-kawat, president of the Overseas Fishing Association of Thailand.

Wong's group has already entered into a joint venture on shrimp culture, while Wichan's group agreed in principle to begin a fishing joint venture—which has become the focus of controversy.

Wichan recently wrote a letter to Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila for clarification of the government's policy on fishing joint ventures with Vietnam.

As a matter of principle, fishing cooperation with Vietnam is not allowed under the government's policy to isolate Hanoi economically. However, the Foreign Ministry has tolerated such undertaking as long as the cooperation does not provide Vietnam with technological know-how or long-term credit.

The ministry would only step in if Thai-Vietnamese business activities jeopardized national security, according to M.R. Thep Thewakun, director general of Foreign Ministry's Political Affairs Department.

However, this explanation is not sufficient to override private sector's anxiety in wanting government blessing for their business deals with Vietnam.

They complained that without the government's help, they are not prepared to compete with other key Vietnamese trade partners, such as Japan, Hong Kong, India, and France. Given the geographical proximity and well-known Thai products, Thailand is in the position to expand trade relations with Vietnam.

It is an open secret that within the government there has not been a consensus as far as the trade policy with Vietnam is concerned.

The National Security Council (NSC) continues to oppose any direct trade with Vietnam, particularly on the government-to-government level. They contend that economic ties with Vietnam could be used to serve political purposes in its dealing with Thailand.

Among senior Foreign Ministry officials, there are two main groups. The first group calls for limited official trade relations with Vietnam to an extent that it does not harm Thailand's endeavour to bring a political end to the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea.

The second group more or less shares the same line of thinking with the NSC: It sees Vietnam as a permanent enemy that Thailand, along with international community, must continue to isolate from the world.

Nonetheless, in private, policy makers in the Foreign Ministry are ready to adopt a more flexible posture against Vietnam if they conclude that Hanoi is serious about its proposed troop withdrawal from Kampuchea and about forging closer relations with Thailand.

A senior foreign ministry official said it is hard for the government to initiate a dialogue with Vietnam on fishing cooperation when hundreds of Thai fishermen are still inside Vietnamese jails. Thailand, has time and again urged Vietnam to release all Thai fishermen and trawlers as a goodwill gesture.

Each year several hundred Thai fishermen are stranded inside Vietnamese territorial waters, which is rich in marine resources. Last year more than 500 fishermen were released after paying a hefty fine.

Like it or not, without the government's support, local businessmen will continue to trade with Vietnam through Singapore, which has enjoyed no-nonsense trade with Vietnam despite its harsh stand on Vietnam. Some Thai companies have cooperated with Singapore's businessmen to set up offices in the island to export Thai consumer products to Vietnam to avoid the government's hassling.

Sooner or later, with such a vast potential market in Vietnam, not only Thai businessmen, but also those from other countries, will seek Vietnamese markets.

The private sector should have the freedom to trade with Vietnam—with some government blessing for a change—if there is no tangible evidence to suggest that doing so would endanger Thailand's national interest.

THAI RAT Article

BK171225 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai
17 Jan 88 p 3

[Article by Sunthon Wathi: "Why Doesn't Thailand Trade With the Indochinese Countries?"]

[Text] Thailand is unhappy with the increasing business deals between Indonesia, the big brother of ASEAN, and Vietnam. This is headlined and reported by the Thai English-language newspaper THE NATION on 12 January.

What has Indonesia traded in with Vietnam that has made Thailand unhappy?

It has been known, in fact, for a long time that Indonesia is the country which has the closest relations with Vietnam among the ASEAN nations, both diplomatically and in terms of trade. Indonesian Foreign Minister Dr Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja has been assigned by ASEAN to be in contact with Vietnam in order to find ways to end the Cambodian conflict which has lasted for 9 years and affected peace in the Southeast Asia.

Yet, it had never crossed ASEAN's mind that Indonesia would take this opportunity to do business with Vietnam, which Thailand feels jeopardizes the ASEAN strategy of using economic power to pressure Vietnam into

withdrawing its troops from Cambodia. Earlier, Thailand refused to trade with the three Indochinese countries, namely Vietnam, Laos, and Khmer Phnom Penh. Thailand refused to sell over 200 items of so-called "strategic" goods to the three Indochinese countries—goods such as oil, bicycles, cement, and machinery—in fear that Vietnam might use those goods in the Cambodian war.

Indonesia, the big brother in ASEAN, on the contrary, has done business with Vietnam openly. Recently, it agreed to loan 20,000 metric tons of rice to Vietnam. And Pertamina, the state-owned oil company of Indonesia, has expressed interest in entering into a joint venture with Vietnam in oil exploration in Vietnamese territorial waters. Indonesia has also sold tens of thousands of tons of fertilizer to Vietnam and has agreed to sell more. The fertilizer sold by Indonesia to Vietnam was produced by the ASEAN joint venture fertilizer plant, in which Thailand holds equity.

As a result, Thailand is unhappy with the transactions that Indonesia has made with Vietnam because it may raise questions about the image of unity and solidarity of ASEAN, which wants to use economics to pressure Vietnam into withdrawing troops from Cambodia.

Why is Thailand just now beginning to feel unhappy? Isn't it too late?

We have known this matter for a long time. Foreign newspapers have publicized the issue and foreign journalists who have visited Hanoi, Vientiane, or Phnom Penh also know about it.

Other ASEAN members, in addition to Indonesia, have also done extensive business with Vietnam for a long time. Even Japan, which is considered the best in trade, cannot compare to other ASEAN members in this regard;

A delegation of Thai journalists that visited Vientiane last month, asked Lao authorities from where they bought their oil, soft drinks, and machinery. They were told that all these products came from Hong Kong and Singapore. It has been said that some products sold by Singapore to Vietnam were not transported from Singapore but were sent across the Mekong River from Thailand.

Take rice as an example: Singapore buys rice from Thailand for about 600 baht per sack, but it can be sold in Laos for more than 1,000 baht. Although Thailand does not want to trade with Laos, Laos can buy Thai rice from Singapore instead. The bicycle, which is also produced in Thailand, is in great demand by the Lao people. But, earlier Thailand did not allow bicycles to be sold to Laos because the product was considered a "strategic" good. Although this product has been allowed to be sold to Laos for less than a year, a lot of Thai-made bicycles can be seen on the roads in Vientiane. Merchants in

Nakhon Phanom Province have agreed with Laos to use bicycles in exchange for buffalo: one bicycle for one buffalo. A bicycle costs a little over 1,000 baht while one draft animal costs several thousand baht in Thailand. However, since the Thai authorities do not approve of such deals because they fear possible livestock disease from Laos, they have caused problems for the merchants in Nakhon Phanom because the merchants have already concluded an agreement with Laos.

Is our trade policy toward the Indochinese countries really wise?

Vietnam

Nguyen Van Linh Offers Troop Withdrawal
OW210845 Tokyo KYODO in English 0837 GMT
21 Jan 88

[Text] Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, Jan. 21 KYODO—Vietnamese party Chief Nguyen Van Linh said Thursday Vietnam is ready to withdraw its troops from Kampuchea before 1990 if the rival parties in Kampuchea can agree on it.

The offer came as Kampuchean Prime Minister Hun Sen ended peace talks on Wednesday with resistance chief Prince Norodom Sihanouk in Paris without agreement.

Linh told Japanese reporters that Vietnam will accept a troop withdrawal if the two warring parties in Kampuchea can work out an agreement.

"We wish to effect a withdrawal as early as possible and if the parties concerned agree on a pullout before 1990 and make a request for it, it will match Vietnam's wish," Linh said.

Hanoi has offered to withdraw its troops from Kampuchea by 1990 but has not given any specific date.

Vietnam maintains about 100,000 troops in Kampuchea to back up the Hun Sen government, having invaded the neighboring country in 1978 to oust the pro-Beijing government of Pol Pot.

Reports from Paris said Sihanouk and Hun Sen agreed to meet again on Thursday.

Linh also expressed strong interest in strengthening economic cooperation with Japan, saying that Vietnam wants to duplicate the Japanese experience in economic development.

"Japan has achieved the most remarkable economic development among Asian nations and Vietnam wants to learn from Japan," he said.

He said Vietnam is interested in introducing plants and machinery from Japan as part of economic cooperation between the two countries.

Linh spoke with Japanese reporters after attending an Asian-Pacific region journalist conference sponsored by the Vietnam Journalist's Association.

Spokesman Comments

BK211050 Hanoi International Service in English
1000 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] At a regular press conference in Hanoi on Thursday [21 January] the spokesman said the four-point joint communique between Chairman Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk on 4 December was an important start confirming the framework, steps, and the goal of a political solution to the Kampuchea issue and affirming that the Kampuchea issue is settled by the Kampuchean sides themselves and will be ensured by an international conference.

The spokesman also pointed out that there are still forces trying by all means to prevent the process of dialogue and to slow down the developing trend. However, we think that anyone who deliberately runs counter to the common trend will certainly be isolated and will fail.

On the withdrawal of Vietnamese Army volunteers from Kampuchea, the spokesman of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry affirmed that in case all Kampuchean parties obtain a political solution before 1990 Vietnam will complete its troops pullout from Kampuchea earlier than scheduled.

VNA Reports Second Hun Sen-Sihanouk Meeting
BK210825 Hanoi VNA in English 0707 GMT
21 Jan 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 21—The second round of the talks between Chairman Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Sihanouk took place on January 20 at Saint-Germain-en-Laye, 30 km from Paris. The talks dealt essentially with the question of the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea, the elimination of the possibility of the return of the Pol Pot genocide regime in Kampuchea, the cessation of foreign interference against the Kampuchean people, the creation of a coalition government, and the future political regime of Kampuchea.

Taking part in the talks on the side of Chairman Hun Sen were Dit Munti, vice minister for foreign affairs, and Chan Prasit, vice minister at the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. On the side of Prince Sihanouk were Princess Monique and his son Rannarit.

Nguyen Co Thach on Talks
OW191321 Tokyo KYODO in English 1228 GMT
19 Jan 88

[Text] Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, Jan. 19 KYODO—Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach said Tuesday talks between leaders of Kampuchea's opposing political groups could yield progress toward a settlement of the nine-year-old Kampuchean conflict.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, leader of a tripartite anti-Hanoi coalition, and Hun Sen, prime minister of the Vietnamese-backed government in Phnom Penh, are scheduled to go into a second round of talks on the outskirts of Paris Wednesday.

Thach, who spoke at an international journalists' conference here, also said Vietnam is ready to join the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

The foreign minister reconfirmed Hanoi's earlier promise to withdraw all Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea by 1990.

He also said Vietnam has no intention of forming an Indochinese federation.

About 50 journalists from 20 countries attended the conference which opened Tuesday for a three-day session.

Vietnamese leader Nguyen Van Linh is scheduled to attend the meeting on the closing day Thursday, Vietnamese officials said.

Le Duc Anh Greets Lao People's Army Day
BK200749 Hanoi VNA in English 0700 GMT
20 Jan 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 20 —Le Duc Anh, minister of national defence, has sent a message of greetings to his Lao counterpart, General Khamtay Phiphandone, on the 39th anniversary of the Lao People's Army (L.P.A.).

The message noted that over the past 39 years under the leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party headed by General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihane, the L.P.A. together with the entire Lao people has recorded glorious victories over all aggressors and successfully carried out the national and democratic revolution, bringing the country into a new era of peace, independence, unification and socialist development. It praised the L.P.A.'s allround strength which has been constantly consolidated to firmly defend Laos' revolutionary fruition and build it into a prosperous country, thus actively contributing to peace in Southeast Asia and the rest of the world.

The message recalled that over the past several decades, the peoples and armies of Vietnam and Laos have always stood side by side in their common struggle against the enemy and built up their pure, faithful and special friendship.

Laos Decorates Volunteers

BK210859 Hanoi VNA in English 0719 GMT
21 Jan 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 21—The Council of State of Laos has conferred high distinctions on Vietnamese experts and army volunteers in recognition of their assistance to its cause of national construction and defence.

The conferment is made at a ceremony held in Vientiane on Wednesday on the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the Lao People's Army (LPA).

Speaking at the ceremony, Choummali Sai-gnakon, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and first vice chairman of national defence, highly valued the special friendship and militant solidarity between the Lao-Vietnamese armies.

CEMA Home Trade Ministers Conference Opens
BK201558 Hanoi VNA in English 1519 GMT
20 Jan 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 20—The 20th session of the home trade ministers of the member countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance opened here today.

The session is attended by the representatives of the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Hungary, the German Democratic Republic, Cuba, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Vietnam and the CEMA Secretariat. Delegations from Nicaragua and Laos are attending as observer and guest respectively

Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers Nguyen Ngoc Triu delivered a speech welcoming the meeting, the first of its kind in Vietnam.

Under the chairmanship of Vietnamese Minister of Home Trade Hoang Minh Thang, the session is studying the restructuring of multilateral cooperation of the CEMA members in the field of home trade and exchanging views on the renewal of trade in their countries.

The session is also discussing measures to broaden the CEMA cooperation with Vietnam and help develop its home trade.

Nguyen Van Linh Sends Message to PLO
BK200839 Hanoi VNA in English 0710 GMT
20 Jan 88

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 20 —Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, on Jan. 18 sent a message to Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), in reply to the latter's letter on the latest developments in the Israeli occupied-Arab territories.

The message says: "The present uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied-Arab land against the Israeli Zionists' acts of repression and terror testifies that no evil scheme and brutal force can shake the iron will of a nation which is resolutely struggling for the right to life, freedom and dignity. The cruel acts of the Tel Aviv regime, aided by the U.S.-led imperialist forces against the innocent unarmed Palestinian people have given the lie to their allegations about "human rights", and constitute crude challenge to progressive opinion in the world and a brazen violation of the elementary norms of international law."

"Failing to learn from the lesson of the U.S. in Vietnam, the U.S.-backed Israeli authorities have engaged in a criminal scheme against the Palestinian people and they will surely meet with bitter failure. The Palestinian people's just struggle which conforms to the trend of the time will surely overcome all the aggressors' schemes and tricks.

"Once again" the message continued, "we affirm the persistent, now as before, of the Communist Party, the government and people of Vietnam support to the just struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative, against the Zionist Israeli aggressors to regain their sacred inviolable national rights including the right to return to their native land, the right to self-determination and to set up an independent and sovereign state of Palestine."

"In this difficult struggle, you can rely on us, a loyal comrade-in-arms of the Palestinian people," the message stressed adding that the Vietnamese people will do their utmost to contribute to the final victory of the Palestinian revolutionary cause.

Joint Research Program With Sweden Completed
BK190904 Hanoi VNA in English 0702 GMT
19 Jan 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 19—A joint research programme between the Institute of Construction Science and Technology of Vietnam and the Swedish Geotechnical Institute which started in 1979 has been basically completed.

This programme which mainly covers the field of foundation engineering is rated as the most fruitful scientific and technical cooperation programme between the two countries.

The application of Swedish modern techniques in foundation engineering has remarkably increased the tempo of construction and reduced the use of materials, particularly imported ones.

Ten teams of Swedish experts have so far come to work in Vietnam and six groups of Vietnamese technicians have gone to Sweden to study geotechnology and the use of new equipment.

Asian-Pacific Journalist Conference Opens
BK191554 Hanoi VNA in English 1526 GMT
19 Jan 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 19—A round table conference of Asian-Pacific journalists was opened in Ho Chi Minh City this morning with the participation of more than 60 journalists from over 20 regional nations. Nguyen Co Thach, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister for foreign affairs, attended the opening ceremony. The Vietnamese delegation including six members is led by Hong Chuong, chairman of the Vietnam Journalists' Association (VJA). Le Van Triet, vice chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee, and Dao Tung, vice chairman and general secretary of the VJA delivered speeches to welcome the conference. The participants heard Minister Nguyen Co Thach's speech on international questions relating to the region and Vietnam's stance for building a Southeast Asia and Pacific of peace, independence, and cooperation, free from nuclear weapons. In the afternoon, the journalists exchanged views on their profession and cooperation. Later, they met with representatives of all strata of the city's people to learn about the settlement of war consequences and the implementation of policies of religious and national union in the city.

Nguyen Van Linh Addresses Textile Conference
BK210751 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
0500 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Recently, at the Phuoc Long textile factory in Ho Chi Minh City, the Vietnam Federation of Textile Enterprises held a conference to review activities of the textile sector throughout the country in 1987. Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the party Central Committee, and a number of leading party and state cadres attended and observed various exchanges of views at the conference.

The comrade general secretary welcomed the achievements recorded by the textile sector in 1987, and noted with interest the measures adopted by various enterprises to iron out difficulties in production and extricate the textile sector from the state of sluggishness and decline in production of the previous years. He exchanged views with the leaders of the Federation of Textile Enterprises and delegates from various textile factories on how to renovate the management mechanism, achieve the objective that production is carried out with profits, and apply socialist business methods in central and local enterprises.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh urged the leaders of the Federation of Textile Enterprises as well as those in charge of these enterprises to learn from and extensively apply to the entire sector the good experience of localities where the management mechanism has been renovated, either on an experimental or permanent basis. He

also listened attentively to the suggestions offered by various delegates and sought an understanding of the thoughts and aspirations of the brother and sister textile workers.

Finally, the comrade general secretary pointed out the need for developing cotton cultivation to ensure the raw materials for the textile sector and the need to define quickly policies to encourage cotton planters. He also urged all trade organs to pay attention to promoting our textiles in domestic and foreign markets while seeking an understanding of consumer demand and tastes to help improve various textile and tailored items.

After that, Comrade Bui Van Long, director general of the Federation of Textile Enterprises, read a report recapitulating all the achievements and the still-existing shortcomings of the textile sector in 1987 and pointing out the orientations and tasks for the textile sector in 1988.

Province Steps Up Party Purification Drive
BK180700 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] The Party Committee of Lang Son Province has chosen the party organizations of Cao Loc and Chi Lang Districts and Lang Son City as pilot units for implementing the campaign to raise the militancy of party organizations and state apparatuses and to promote healthier social relations. Standing members of the provincial party committee had directly guided the pilot units in carrying out these tasks and coordinated the campaign with the implementation of other tasks of the localities.

From late December 1987 until the end of the 1st quarter of 1988, Lang Son Province will conduct criticism and self-criticism within the party and has organized the masses to participate in party building and resolving remaining problems. To date, all basic units have strengthened party activities and reexamined and reevaluated the qualifications of party cadres and members. They have revamped the state and administrative apparatuses to make them more compact and efficient.

The province has directly guided the antinegativism efforts in the Cigarette Trading Corporation and is striving to solve quickly a number of outstanding cases including the one in which a standing member of the Trang Dinh District Party Committee was charged with many violations of the law.

City Post Office Launches Facsimile Service
WA201957 Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG
10 Nov 87 p 3

[Advertisement: "Ho Chi Minh City Post Office Launches Facsimile Service HCM City—Australia Via Telecommunications Satellite"]

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Text of Law on Export, Import Taxes
BK171541 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 12 Jan 88

["Full text of law on export and import taxes on commercial goods"]

[Text] In order to strengthen management over export-import activities, contribute positively to broadening and enhancing the efficacy of the state's external economic activities, set up a rational export-import structure, help protect and develop production and guide domestic consumption, and contribute to creating sources of revenues for the state budget:

By virtue of Article 83 of the SRV Constitution, this law defines the export and import taxes on commercial goods.

Chapter I

Taxable Goods and Tax Paying Organizations

Article 1. All goods bought from, sold to, or exchanged with foreign countries, upon exportation or importation across the Vietnamese border, are subject to export or import taxes.

Article 2. All economic organizations allowed to export or import goods—hereafter called export-import organizations—are, upon exporting or importing goods across the Vietnamese border, required to pay export or import taxes.

Article 3. Regarding exported or imported goods which come under separate agreements on export and import taxes between the Vietnamese Government and foreign countries, export and import taxes shall be assessed according to such agreements.

For goods exported or imported by foreign-invested enterprises in Vietnam as well as for those exported or imported under joint venture contracts, export and import taxes shall be levied in accordance with the stipulations of this law.

Chapter II

Bases for Tax Assessment

Article 4. Bases for imposing export and import taxes:

1. The volume of each type of good listed in the export-import goods manifest.

2. Taxes shall be paid in Vietnamese dong.
3. Tax tariffs for groups of or items or goods as shown in the tax table.

Article 5. Bases for computing taxes:

1. For exported goods, it is the selling prices at the port of origin as specified in the contracts.
2. For imported goods, it is the purchasing prices at the port of destination, including transportation and insurance charges, as specified in the contracts.

If purchases or sales are made by other methods, tax computation shall be based on the prices mentioned in legitimate documents. The rates of exchange between the Vietnamese dong and foreign currencies shall be publicly announced by the Vietnam State Bank.

Chapter III

Tax Table

Article 6. Proceeding from the policy to promote export-import activities for regions and for groups and items of exported or imported goods, the state shall determine the groups and items of taxable goods and the tax tariffs for each group and item of goods. The nomenclature of groups and items of taxable goods and the tax tariff for each group and item of goods are specified by the Council of State in the tax table attached to this law.

Article 7. Tax tariffs on export-import goods are classified into two categories: minimum tariff and universal tariff.

1. Minimum tariff is applied to goods exported to or imported from countries that have signed for a provision for a favored status in trade relations with Vietnam, and in other cases as decided by the Council of Ministers.
2. Universal tariff is applied to goods exported to or imported from other countries, namely those not mentioned in provision one of this article.

Chapter IV

Tax Reduction, Tax Exemption, and Tax Refund

Article 8. Export and import tax reduction or exemption shall apply to the following cases:

1. Tax reduction shall apply to goods damaged or lost in the course of shipment or loading and unloading with full proof of damage or loss being certified by competent state organs.
2. Tax exemption shall apply to the following cases:

- a. Goods imported for study or scientific research purposes for schools or scientific research institutes.
 - b. Goods imported or exported on a temporary basis for display at fairs and exhibitions.
 - c. Goods falling under humanitarian aid programs.
 - d. Goods in transit or bound for other destinations via Vietnam.
 - e. Goods made of imported materials and raw materials used to fill orders placed by foreign countries and ultimately destined for exportation.
3. As decided by state organs in charge of foreign investment management, tax exemption or tax reduction shall apply to export-import goods of enterprises having foreign investments as well as to export-import goods produced within the framework of specific business cooperation contracts aimed at promoting investments.

Regarding goods already falling under tax reduction or tax exemption terms but later becoming fully taxable due to changes in exemption or reduction conditions different from those specified under this article, due export-import taxes shall be levied.

The Council of Ministers shall define the authority and procedures for granting tax reduction and tax exemption and for full tax collection as mentioned under this article.

Article 9. Export and import taxes shall be refunded to export-import organizations in the following cases:

1. Imported goods for which taxes have been paid, but which are still stored at warehouses or loading zones at ports and are permitted for reexport.
2. Goods for which export taxes have been paid, but which are not permitted to be exported or permission for export is revoked.
3. Goods for which export taxes have been paid as per the declaration sheet, but which are, in fact, found to be in lesser quantity than as declared.

Chapter V

Organization of Implementation

Article 10. The Council of Ministers shall organize the implementation of the work related to export and import taxes on commercial goods.

Article 11. Whenever export-import organizations have goods for export or import, they must file a declaration and pay taxes.

The tax collection organ is responsible for checking and completing the necessary procedures and collecting taxes.

Article 12. The time for computing export and import taxes is the date on which the declaration of export-import goods is filed. Within 8 hours from the time the declaration of export-import goods is filed, the tax collection organ shall officially inform the taxable organization of the amount of taxes due. Within 72 hours from the time official notification is received, the taxable organization shall have to complete the tax payment.

If the taxable organization does not agree on the tax amount of which it has been officially notified, it still has to pay that amount in full; but, at the same time, it has the right to file an appeal with the central tax collection organ for settlement. If this is still unsatisfactory, it may file an appeal with the minister of finance. The decision made by the minister of finance is final.

Chapter VI

Sanctions for Violations

Article 13.

1. Taxable organizations that are late in paying taxes shall be subjected to a fine amounting to 5/1,000 of the amount of tax delinquency a day.

2. Taxable organizations that commit fraudulent acts in paying taxes shall be subjected to one or more of the following sanctions:

a. Warning.

b. A fine amounting to 2-5 times the amount of tax fraud involved.

The tax collection organ is empowered to apply the sanctions mentioned in provisions one and two of this article. If the taxable organization does not agree with the decision of the tax collection organ, it still must honor the sanction already decided; but, at the same time, it has the right to file an appeal with the central tax collection organ. The decision of the central tax collection organ is final.

3. Individuals who commit acts in violation of the stipulations on tax computation, tax collection, or tax payment shall, depending on the gravity of his wrongdoings, are subject to disciplinary measures, administrative sanctions, or punishment as provided for under the criminal code.

Chapter VII

Final Clauses

Article 14. The law on export and import taxes shall become effective 1 February 1988.

Article 15. All previous stipulations that contradict this law are rescinded.

Article 16. The Council of Ministers shall define in detail the implementation of this law.

This law was approved at the Second Session of the SRV National Assembly, eighth legislature, on 29 December 1987.

News Conference Held

BK141605 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
0500 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] The office of the National Assembly and Council of State has just held a press conference to introduce the law on export and import taxes on commercial goods, which was approved by the eighth National Assembly at its second session on 29 December 1987.

Comrade Vu Mao, director of the office of the National Assembly and Council of State, pointed out the purpose and requirements of the law on export and import taxes. Comrade Ngo Thiet Thach, vice minister of finance, introduced the contents of the law on export and import taxes and offered a clear explanation of the law's tariff of export taxes. He also answered questions raised by newsmen on the formulation of the law on export and import taxes, the items subject to this law, the process of dealing with relations between establishments producing export goods and foreign trade units, and the bases on which the tax rate for each group of export and import items will be established.

Comrade Ngo Thiet Thach pointed out the four requirements of the law on export and import taxes that should be fulfilled, which involve making a direct effect to implement the three major economic programs laid down by the sixth Party Congress; encouraging a sharp increase in the production of consumer goods in the country; improving the quality of management of export and import goods in order to gradually establish an export-import economic structure that will meet the needs of our national economic development and to fight competition in sale and purchase activities in the markets at home and abroad; and regulating part of the revenue among various localities and export and import units to accumulate some funds for the central state budget.

Radio Reviews Agricultural Production

BK210443 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Summary] "According to the General Statistics Department, as of 15 January, the south had harvested more than 660,000 hectares of 10th-month rice, representing nearly 44% of the cultivated area and 65% of the area

harvested during the same period last year. In general, compared with the corresponding period last year and the area of rice that has ripened, the harvest of 10th-month rice in the South is still slow.

"Meanwhile, throughout the entire country soil preparation for the winter-spring cultivation season has been essentially completed and winter-spring rice has been planted on 697,000 hectares. This figure represents 77% of the area planted with this rice during the same period last year." The north has sown rice seedlings on 109,000 hectares, almost meeting the need of the entire cultivation season, while the south has planted 645,000 hectares of rice, fulfilling 76% of the planned norm, with the Mekong River Delta accounting for more than 484,000 hectares.

"As many as 64,000 hectares or 10% of the total area of winter-spring rice in the south had been affected by insects, mainly stem borers and caterpillars." Efforts are being made by all localities concerned to prevent and stamp out these insects.

"With regard to the supply of materials for the winter-spring crop production, to date, some 400,000 metric tons of nitrate fertilizer have been distributed to all localities. This figure, however, represents only 42.6% of the planned norm." All localities have also been supplied with insecticides equivalent to 81% of the planned norm.

According to a forecast by the Meteorology and Hydrology General Department, in the next 10 days, the temperature will drop to 16-17° and there will be some cold spells. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry urges all localities in the north to care for and protect rice seedlings against cold weather and ensure sufficient water for irrigation purposes and the southern provinces to accelerate the harvesting of 10th-month rice and intensively plant winter-spring rice.

Review of December 1987 TAP CHI CONG SAN
BK061542 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1000 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Summary from poor reception] TAP CHI CONG SAN begins its December 1987 issue with an editorial entitled "Strengthen the Soldier-People Unity," stressing the importance of soldier-people unity, reviewing past achievements, and pointing out shortcomings in this task.

The editorial says: "Various party, state, and mass organizations must develop their roles in maintaining and developing the tradition of soldier-people unity. We must continue to launch people's movements to support and assist the army with appropriate means and methods to help it obtain concrete work results."

Next, the journal carries an article entitled "Some Basic Issues in Renovating The Economic Management Mechanism at Grass-roots Units and in Renovating State Economic Management" by Vo Chi Cong, member of

the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of State. The article analyses a number of basic issues relating to the application of economic law in Vietnam at present. It also points out errors and sluggishness in the old economic thinking and the consequences of bureaucratism and the state subsidies system, and says: "Formulating plans in accordance with the spirit of shifting to socialist business and accounting is the best way to fulfill the requirements of the basic economic law and to implement the directive of integrating and unifying the interests of the state, collectives, and individual laborers."

In the "Science and Education" section, the journal features an article entitled "Reform the National Education: An Objective Necessity of Our Era" by Dang Quoc Bao, head of the CPV Central Committee Science and Education Department. The article raises various objective requirements for reforming national education at present to promote socioeconomic development projects.

In this issue, the journal also carries an article entitled "The Public Health Sector and New Requirements" by Comrades Dang Hoi Xuan and Vu Kien, pointing out shortcomings and sluggishness in the public health sector in various localities. It points out urgent requirements to ensure the people's good health and urges the public health sector to strengthen the public health structure in grass-roots units to eradicate epidemics and promote family planning programs.

The journal then carries an article entitled "Law and the Economy" by Hoang Hao on dialectical relations between law and the economy, stressing irrational points and pointing out methods to renovate economic thinking.

Next, the journal carries an article entitled "An Experience in Business at the Nam Can District Marine Product Joint Organization" by Huu Hanh on production and business activities of the Marine Product Joint Organization of Nam Can District, Minh Hai Province, reviewing achievements scored by the organization during the past years.

In this issue, the journal's "Roundtable Conference on Thinking and its Renovation" section carries the following articles: "Role of Renovation Thinking," by Dang Xuan Ky, deputy rector of the Marx-Leninist Institute, stressing renovation of thinking and efforts to overcome errors and sluggishness in the old thinking while striving to grasp firmly Marx-Leninist, revolutionary and scientific thinking; "Enhance Scientific Knowledge: an Important Condition for Renovating Thinking," by Nguyen Duy Qui; "Information, Reflection, and Thinking," by Prof Nguyen Duy Thong; "Renovation of Thinking From the Psychological Angle," by Prof Pham Han Gia; and "Direction of our Time in Renovation Thinking," by Vu Hoang Cong.

In this issue, the journal's "Study and Exchange of Views" section continues to discuss product contracts in agriculture, and inflation, featuring an article entitled "Money in the Process of Shifting to Merchandise Economy" by Prof Dao Tan Sam and an article entitled "Some Ideas on Inflation and Credit in our Country" by Associate Prof Le Dinh Thu.

In the "Ideological Life" section, the journal features an article entitled "Story About Comrade Ch.Ch." by Hong Tam, criticizing those who flattered the authorities for their own interests, especially at state organizations.

Finally, in the "Through Books and Newspapers of Fraternal Countries" section, the journal carries an article on experience in renovation of socioeconomic management mechanisms in some fraternal countries and an article on inflation published by the Bulgarian, Hungarian, and Soviet press.

Briefs

Family Resettlement Figures

Thai Binh Province in 1987 sent 1,800 families to build economic zones in areas of Dac Lac and Gia Lai-Cong Tum Province. Leading cadres of Thai Binh have worked with officials of Gia Lai-Cong Tum and Dac Lac Provinces since late December last year to make preparation to send 3,000-5,000 families to build economic zones in these provinces in 1988. On their departure, each family will be given 50 kg of paddy for consumption and for planting. [Summary] *[Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 4 Jan 88 BK]*

Australia

Hawke Reshuffles Cabinet Ministers

BK190658 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0500 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Australia's prime minister, Mr Hawke, has announced a cabinet reshuffle and the appointment of two new ministers. The reshuffle follows the retirement of former minister Senator Susan Ryan and the sacking of Mr John Brown after it was revealed he had misled Parliament.

Radio Australia's national affairs reporter, Michael Cavanagh, says the new ministers are Mr Gary Punch who becomes the arts minister and Senator Peter Cook who becomes resources minister.

In announcing their appointment the prime minister also revealed that Trade Negotiations Minister Mr Michael Duffy will become a member of cabinet. Former Resources Minister Mr Peter Morris is now the minister assisting the prime minister. Senator Graham Richardson takes over Mr John Brown's portfolio of arts, sport, environment, tourism, and territory with newly appointed Mr Gary Punch as his assistant.

Also among the changes, Aboriginal Affairs Minister Gerry Hand and his portfolio have been moved to the control of Mr John Dawkins who is employment and training minister.

Torres Islanders Call for Independence Talks

BK210554 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0500 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] The Torres Island leader says he will appeal for United States and French aid if the Australian Government refuses to negotiate demands for independence. A congress on Thursday Island between Papua New Guinea and northern Queensland has sent a telegram to the prime minister and the state premier of Queensland asking for a meeting in the Torres Strait Islands before 26 January. Radio Australia's Brisbane office say the islanders plan to formally present their demand to secede from the Commonwealth and the state of Queensland during the meeting.

The chairman of the Torres Strait Islands Coordinating Council, Mr George (Mai), says if Australia continues to stonewall the islanders, the islanders will look overseas for assistance.

In another development, the prime minister, Mr Hawke, has accused the islanders of taking advantage of Australia's bicentenary to launch their bid for independence. He said their perceived grievances have existed for a long time and have been brought up now to attract international attention. Mr Hawke says he will discuss the issue with the minister responsible for Torres Strait islanders, Mr Gerry Hand.

Fiji Relations Possible With New Policy

BK190822 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Australia's foreign minister, Mr Hayden, has announced a new, flexible approach in Australia's policy on recognizing other countries, which opens the way for normalization of relations with Fiji. Radio Australia's national affairs reporter, Michael Cavanagh, says that since last year's coups in Fiji, the Australian Government has refused to recognize the new administration, claiming instead that it was closely monitoring the situation. However, under the changes announced by Mr Hayden, Australia will be in the position to maintain contact with nations such as Fiji. Under the new arrangements, Australia will no longer formally recognize or withhold recognition of foreign governments.

Mr Hayden claims the past policy forced Australia to make simple black-and-white choices between recognition and nonrecognition. While ruling out any change allowing for the establishment of formal relations with Kampuchea or Afghanistan, Mr Hayden has not commented on the situation involving Fiji.

Concern About French Aid to Fiji Reported

BK200644 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0500 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] French aid in the Pacific has increased with the assignment of a French computer expert to an offshore mineral prospecting organization based in Suva. A spokesman for the Committee for Coordination of Offshore Prospecting in the South Pacific [CCOP SoPac] told reporters in Suva that the French expert would manage computer operations and train staff.

Four French technical experts are already with the CCOP SoPac Secretariat. France is also offering training for personnel for islanders at its new university in Tahiti.

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS points out that Australia, which is a member of CCOP SoPac, is reported to be concerned at extended French aid in the South Pacific, especially to Fiji. Both Australia and New Zealand suspended aid to Fiji following last year's military coups while France recently announced an aid package for Fiji worth about \$13 million [currency not further specified].

Fiji

Former Chief Justice Reappointed to Judiciary

BK190450 Hong Kong AFP in English 0310 GMT
19 Jan 88

[Text] Suva, Jan 19 (AFP)—Fiji's former Chief Justice Sir Timoci Tuivaga has been reappointed to lead the judiciary after resigning last October in protest against the coup-installed military government of Brigadier-General Sitiveni Rabuka.

The 56-year-old judge, knighted by the queen in 1981, was sworn in here late Monday [18 January] as chief justice by President Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau.

Sir Timoci and his fellow judges resigned on October 7 after refusing to recognise the legitimacy of Brig.-Gen. Rabuka's military regime.

Brig.-Gen. Rabuka declared Fiji a republic on October 8, following military coups in May and September 1987.

Sir Timoci said in a statement that his acceptance of the position was influenced by the understanding that the government favoured a return to constitutional representative government at the earliest date possible.

He also said he was assured that fundamental human rights would be protected and the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary respected.

"We hope the full supreme court will be appointed soon," Fiji Law Society Vice President Gyaneshwar Lala said, welcoming Sir Timoci's reappointment.

The Supreme Court was disbanded and the all military-appointed judges were dismissed in December after Col. Rabuka returned power to Ratu Ganilau.

"My decision to re-enter judicial service is but a manifestation of the general concern we all feel regarding the future welfare of the country", Sir Timoci said.

"It is the extent of such support, together with the return of civilian leadership, that has made my position under the present circumstances more tenable than it otherwise would have been," he said.

Under a decree promulgated by the president over the weekend, the chief justice heads a judiciary under a new court structure, with the Supreme Court replacing Britain's Privy Council as the final appellate court of Fiji.

The chief justice will be president of the court of appeal and the supreme court, as well as chairman of the judicial and legal services commission.

"There is of course no question that the country is beset with a sense of social turmoil because of unprecedented political events," Sir Timoci said. "It would require the highest form of statesmanship among our political leaders to appease such turmoil and restore the country to social harmony and stability."

He added that the test of good laws was their general acceptability as a matter of social conscience.

Sir Timoci has been given a "free hand" to seek eight judges to serve under him on his high court bench, and most would be recruited from overseas.

Sir Timoci's eight colleagues on the old Supreme Court have left Fiji.

Before the May 14 coup which toppled the democratically elected government of Timoci Bavadra, judges came from Britain, Australia and New Zealand.

Their Fiji salaries, much lower than they would have received in their own countries, were supplemented by their home governments under aid schemes, most of which were suspended following the coups.

Sir Timoci said he had been allowed to recruit from those countries as well as Africa and the Caribbean.

A number of African judges are working in the South Pacific, including the chief justice of Kiribati, who is a Nigerian.

Meanwhile, another barrier to normalised Fiji-Australia ties seemed to have been removed when Australian Labour leader Simon Crean, on his return from three days in Fiji with an international mission, said Monday that a framework to restore full trade union rights appeared to have been established.

The Australian Foreign Affairs Department has indicated it would like the question of recognition for Fiji resolved in the context of the wider question of Australia's basis for recognising countries.

Australia has retained a diplomatic presence in Suva since May and has stayed in contact with the military regime, but has refused to recognise it.

Unlike many other Western countries, Australia recognises governments rather than states.

In Canberra, a spokesman for Foreign Minister Bill Hayden said a proposal to change the practice to recognise countries by state rather than government would be considered at a cabinet meeting Tuesday.

New Decrees Give 'Wide Powers' to President
BK170845 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] In Fiji, seven government decrees published today have given wide powers to the island nation's president and have restructured the country's judicial system. The decrees were approved by the cabinet on Friday and were promulgated today by the president, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau.

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS says the decrees formalized the immunity from criminal or civil proceedings of Army officers and troops who staged Fiji's two military coups last year. A statement released by the

Information Ministry in Suva emphasizes that the decrees are only temporary and will operate until the 3-month-old Republic's new Constitution is completed and brought into force.

The statement says the temporary decrees are absolutely necessary for the interim civilian government to work effectively. It says the decrees are essential to create confidence and stability and to attract international recognition, investment, tourism, and development.

Government Pledges Basic Human Rights Decree
BK190906 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] The Fiji Government has promised a decree guaranteeing basic and fundamental human rights. It says the decree will be issued as soon as it is prepared. The promise came in a 5-page background paper issued by the Ministry of Information in Suva explaining what the paper calls the spirit and purpose behind the series of decrees now being issued by the 6-weeks old civilian-led government.

Ministry document says seven decrees proclaimed by the president over the weekend reflected the government's awareness of the people's determination to return to normal life. The decrees, the document says, were also designed to attract other countries' confidence in Fiji. With this confidence back in place, the tourists, investors, aid donors, trade, and international money lenders were expected to follow.

Meeting Promotes 'Positive Discrimination'
BK180851 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0803 GMT 18 Jan 88

[From the "International Report" program]

[Excerpt] A weekend meeting of Fiji's senior civil servants has put its seal of approval on what opponents described as outright racial discrimination within the government. The permanent secretaries and heads of government departments voted in favor of developing programs which would ensure that indigenous Fijians get the top civil service jobs. Public affairs correspondent Tony Melville says Fiji's Public Service Association will be opposing the latest moves and may consider industrial action.

[Begin recording] [Melville] The weekend meeting of senior civil servants was held in the relaxing surroundings of the (Naviti) resort. The gathering was promoted as a workshop organized by the Public Service Commission to consider the modernization of Fiji's civil service in the new republic. In attendance were both the president, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, and the prime minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara. One of the key resolutions passed at the conference was agreement to promote programs which would provide positive discrimination

for indigenous Fijians in the civil service. The move was the latest step in a process of Fijianization which began after Fiji's military coup last May.

Concerned at the dominance of ethnic Indians in both the government and business, the program was instituted by the military government to appoint Fijians to top civil service posts. The Public Service Commission took over the running of the civil service after the abrogation of the constitution and was given sweeping powers to both control the administration and formulate policy. Wielding this charter gave the commission power to retire or sack workers if it deemed their employment is not to be in the national interest or for any other reason it prescribed.

Before the May coup, Fiji had about 16,000 public servants and Indians held many of the top jobs. Since then, they have suffered a 50 percent pay cut as well as the suspension of training schemes. According to the Fiji Public Service Association, there had been many resignations and a purge of Indian permanent secretaries and department heads. The association's general secretary and ousted Bavadra Government's finance minister, Mahendra Chaudhary, said the purge was so thorough that 90 percent of the senior civil servants at the (Naviti) resort meeting were indigenous Fijians.

He said the positive discrimination they voted in favor of was nothing new in that there had always been special schemes to promote the employment of indigenous Fijians; however, the vote was cause for concern. [passage omitted] [end recording]

France Gives \$12.8 million in Nonmilitary Aid
BK150708 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0500 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] France is giving Fiji aid worth nearly \$12.8 million. The French Department for South Pacific Affairs said the assistance was being given in the form of bank credit guarantees and grants. It will include a helicopter, ambulance and trucks for use in rural development and money will also be injected into Fiji's sugarcane and tourism industry.

However, the French news agency AFP says no firm decision has yet been taken on whether to grant the military assistance the new Fiji Government wants. The AFP quotes sources at the Department for South Pacific Affairs as saying the aid was meant to encourage Australia and New Zealand to wipe the slate clean in their opposition to events in Fiji arising from the military coup last year.

A French Government mission visited the Pacific nation last month to study development projects and AFP says the new civilian-led government's foreign minister is expected to visit Paris at an unspecified date.

New Zealand

Government Relaxes Freeze on Aid to Fiji
BK210550 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0500 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] New Zealand has eased slightly its freeze on foreign aid to Fiji by handing over a check for Fiji's pine industry. New Zealand's high commissioner in Suva, Mr Gates, has handed a check for 418,000 Fiji dollars to the finance minister, Mr Kamakamica. It brings to 13 million Fiji dollars New Zealand's total contribution to the industry since 1976.

Because of its large investment in Fiji's forest industry, the assistance did not come under the freeze on New Zealand aid to that country. Mr Gates said recent political developments in Fiji, including the civilian-led government and re-establishment of the judiciary, encouraged the New Zealand Government to make the loan available. It was the first New Zealand financial contribution since the first coup that toppled the government of Prime Minister Timoci Bavandra in May last year.

Vanuatu

Lini Appoints Sope as Cabinet Minister
BK150026 Hong Kong AFP in English 0008 GMT
15 Jan 88

[Text] Port Vila, Jan 14 (AFP)—Vanuatu's Prime Minister Walter Lini named beaten leadership challenger Barak Sope to his Cabinet Thursday, hours before leaving the country for medical treatment, diplomatic sources said here Thursday.

Mr. Lini made the announcement of Mr. Sope's appointment as minister for transport, tourism, public works and water supplies in an official statement.

Diplomatic sources said that he then boarded a flight to New Zealand, where he would undergo therapy for paralysis caused by a stroke he suffered early last year.

Mr. Lini acknowledged in his statement that there had been a dispute within the the Vanua'aku Party, which was re-elected for a further four-year term last month.

Mr. Sope had challenged Mr. Lini for the leadership of the party, citing the ill-health of the prime minister as a reason why he should stand down.

Sources said that Mr. Sope failed to get the numbers at a crucial party congress and was subsequently dropped from the Cabinet named December 15.

Mr. Sope's omission from the Cabinet then was seen as a rebuff to the former Vanua'aku Party's ambitious secretary-general.

Mr. Lini said that, while the challenge had caused some instability in the country, it was time to get on with the business of government.

Mr. Sope's portfolio gives him control of the economically important tourism sector, as well transport, covering shipping, and the politically prominent role of public works.

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